

Carefree 111

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 111: Shame

"Spiritual spells?"

Elder Han opened his eyes, but his surroundings were pitch black. He tried to recall what happened, and subconsciously mumbled to himself.

The suspicious fog and its similarity to spiritual techniques made him think of a spiritual knight.

"Very good! You've gained consciousness quicker, which means that you are stronger than Bian Xie!"

Fang Yuan stood at a side, satisfied.

"Why did I not guess..."

Elder Han laughed. "After knowing you for so long, I still had no idea that you know spiritual techniques..."

"It's only normal that you are unaware of it!"

The path of a dream master was inclined towards illusions, and therefore one was hard to detect.

Of course, Fang Yuan only used his elemental force for detection, or to make mental suggestions. Only when he had fully become a dream master and could harness dream elemental force did he learn a few spiritual techniques from Master Wenxin's inheritance.

Take for instance, the Bewildering Fog was one of the spiritual techniques which he had learnt.

Since it was summoned using dream elemental force, even martial artists in the 4 Heavenly Gates would succumb to it.

"You showed me such a big secret of yours... It seems that you have no intention of letting me go alive..."

Elder Han understood and accepted death, as he looked at his surroundings.

The place seemed like a cave. A torch burnt brilliantly which filled the cave with the smell of rosin. In the middle of the cave were three stone platforms. Other than himself and Bian Xie, there was another person!

Furthermore, this person was a familiar one.

"Elder Yan... Lady Yan!!!"

Elder Han's eyeball almost popped out. "You were the one that ambushed our sect!?"

Thinking about how his person destroyed his sect, and yet he foolishly sent himself to him, Elder Han began to break into cold sweat.

"That's me!"

Fang Yuan smiled. "Why is it fair for the Sect to plot against me, but unfair for me to strike first?"

"Evil thief!!!"

Elder Han's heart sank. He still felt for the Sect, and therefore was raging. However, he could not move a single bit.

The inner force which was initially strong was now sealed in the Dantian like a ferocious tiger in a locked cage, helpless.

"Stop struggling. I have studied you and Lady Yan the longest, and if I still don't know how to seal your martial arts, then I should just give up as a doctor!"

Fang Yuan calmly stated, and at the same time examined Bian Xie's joints.

As compared to Elder Yan and Elder Han, this [Martial Artist (11th Gate)] felt rather unfamiliar. He had to understand him a little more before taking any action.

In fact, no one was more suitable than Elder Yan and Elder Han in being test subjects.

After all, both of them were under Fang Yuan's control previously. Their circulatory system and martial arts were both deeply studied by Fang Yuan. As for Bian Xie, Fang Yuan still had to perform a few tests.

"What exactly do you want?"

Fang Yuan appeared too mysterious, and the only conscious Elder Han could not hold back any longer and asked.

"Don't worry, it's a good thing! I want to help you break through to Wu Zong!"

Fang Yuan answered honestly.

"What?"

At that moment, Elder Han thought that he had heard the biggest joke of his life, but slowly fear grew in him, and with anticipation, he asked. "What joke is this?"

"The 12 Gates of Martial Arts, in reality, is a method of self-training. It continuously developed one's potential, much like the process ancient spiritual knights used to go through... Once a person's magical energy is sufficient, with external stimulation, it is not hard to obtain hints of elemental force. This is especially true to Earth Gate martial artists like you, who have already sowed the seeds of elemental force..."

However, Fang Yuan deliberately missed out a point.

This forceful way of breaking through gates would take up too much essence from the body. Notwithstanding the shortening of one's lifespan, one's body might not be able to take it, as the increasing magical energy could not reconcile with the elemental force. Once the external stimulation is removed, the body would die immediately!

After all, martial arts was all about foundation, and such a hasty achievement would mean nothing.

But to Fang Yuan, this was all he needed.

With the experience to break through Wu Zong under immense pressure, he could reaffirm his predictions and use his dream elemental force to break through his own Wu Zong!

"You don't seem to believe me?"

Fang Yuan looked at Elder Han and grew a sinister smile on his face. "Doesn't matter, I will aid you in breaking through the Heaven Gate, and allow you to reach your peak first!"

"What?"

Elder Han was shocked, as he saw Fang Yuan pointing his finger towards his forehead.

"Chila!"

Suddenly, a large concentrated force the strength of an ocean broke through Elder Han's Mind Palace. It broke through the Heaven Gate with brute force, which left him in a state of shock, as he continued screaming.

The Heaven Gate needed a martial artist to break through it by himself willingly. With Fang Yuan's limited experience with using dream elemental force, his brute force approach would lead to dire consequences for Elder Han.

However, the effect was immediate.

After the commotion, Elder Han's eyeballs were bloodshot. He had an excruciating headache, as though someone took an axe and ploughed it through his head.

The restrictive Gate finally broke, and large amounts of magical energy rushed into his conscious mind, making him feel dizzy.

"Not... right..."

In his dizziness, a thought went through. "This force... elemental force!!! You are a spiritual knight!!!"

Elder Han could feel the astonishing force within him, and it might even be stronger than what Shi Yutong harnessed.

There was only one explanation for this, no matter how impossible it might be. This young man was not even a spiritual disciple, but a spiritual knight with full control of elemental force!

Thinking about how the Spirit Returning Sect was plotting against a spiritual knight, Elder Han felt disheartened, and his conscious became blurred.

"Ahh..... Breaking through the Heaven Gate with brute force would have side effects, and a shortened lifespan right?"

Fang Yuan shrugged his shoulders. "Rather than dying normally, why not do something crazy before dying, something like breaking through Wu Zong!"

This way of forcefully breaking through gates was possible to almost all Wu Zong spiritual knights, but the consequences would be terrible.

Fang Yuan had already practised it for 10 years in his dream, and in theory, it was perfect. He had ultimate control over his dream elemental force, but after doing it, his test subject would not have long to live.

However, he was satisfied with just having this test subject to confirm his prediction.

"Elder Han, hold on tight. Even if you will die, you should die as a Wu Zong and die glamorously!"

He became as serious as he ever would and struck a palm on Elder Han's dantian.

At the same time, he stuffed large quantities of spiritual medicine and the likes of the bamboo fruit into his mouth.

The continuous stream of dream elemental force slowly seeped into Elder Han's dantian, and towards his miniature elemental force, as it slowly initiated the process of breaking through Wu Zong!

"The proper way to attain Wu Zong is to do it without haste, step by step. However, it would still be possible if someone used their elemental force to stimulate and break it through brute force... For others, they would explode while doing it, but for me, having harnessed dream elemental energy, I can still control it even by using brute force!"

Fang Yuan's eyes glittered.

In front of him, Elder Han's appearance became increasingly scary.

He looked ferocious, and veins were popping up everywhere. Blood flowed all around like earthworms digging through the ground, and his entire body seemed inflated like a balloon.

"Con...tract!"

Fang Yuan did not care and commanded the miniature elemental force to continuously compress itself, in an attempt to transform it into elemental force.

"Ping!"

After a long while, a soft sound travelled from the cave, followed by Fang Yuan's sigh. "I've failed... It seems that the first prediction is impossible, but that's ok, let's continue..."

...

The disappearance of two Elders in the prefecture led the entire Qingye City into chaos.

The new Qingye City Master became anxious, but could only comfort himself that the two Elders were martial artists of the 4 Heavenly Gates, and if they join forces within the prefecture, they would still be able to guard against Wu Zongs, and therefore were likely to be on a secret mission that no one else knew about.

However, five days had passed, and once Shi Yutong returned, he knew that all hope was lost.

"Elder Han and Elder Bian are missing?"

Shi Yutong wore a scarf over her face and appeared wealthy. By her side was Lin Leiyue, who was staring at the new City Master.

"I am useless and deserve to die!"

Even though this City Master was a Spirit Returning Sect disciple, he was still a lowly subject in front of Shi Yutong.

"This enemy is powerful to be able to abduct two Elders without a sound. Even if you have prepared for him, it would still be futile! Return!"

Shi Yutong calmly said a few words, which made Qingye City Master sigh and dismissed him.

"Master..."

When the others had left, Lin Leiyue appeared confused. "There is suddenly an appearance of a highly skilled person in Qingye City, so what should we do now?"

"It is not likely that even a Wu Zong could take down both of them... It might be a spiritual knight!"

Shi Yutong appeared serious. "I will personally take charge of this area and deliver a letter to the alliance leader for him to send help!"

A spiritual disciple would be comparable to a Wu Zong, but still highly depended on the nature of his spiritual technique. However, they would still lose to a Wu Zong based on their actual strength and skill.

Recalling the previous fight for the treasure map, both the spiritual disciples were just assisting the Wu Zongs in the combat.

If a spiritual disciple go one on one with a Wu Zong, with an incomplete elemental force, how would they match Wu Zong?

However, comparing a spiritual knight and a Wu Zong in the same realm, Wu Zong would lose.

By predicting the enemy's ability, Shi Yutong thought about the possibility of the mysterious spiritual knight and became on guard.

"How's it going on in the secluded valley?"

Lin Leiyue finally revealed her own intentions. "The deadline is over, but he has not given me a reply..."

"Secluded valley..."

Shi Yutong looked beautiful, but now had a cold look in her eyes. "Could it be that the disappearance of the two Elders is related to the secluded valley? Otherwise, why would they only disappear now?"

"Furthermore... I am also suspecting that the previous ambush on our sect is also related to the secluded valley! Even though we have no proof, but there is just too much coincidence, and hard for anyone not to suspect!"

"What?"

Lin Leiyue took a few steps back and tried to imagine Fang Yuan.

Realising that she might be lied to all this while and being manipulated by Fang Yuan, she became frustrated.

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 112: Wu Zong

"Ow!!!"

Back in the Green Peak.

A long wail was heard from Fang Yuan's straw cottage. The wail was so loud that it travelled up into the clouds in the sky.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle which was flying past was frightened a little by the loud wail and it almost knocked onto the cliff.

"Haha....the pathway to Wu Zong is complete!!"

The wooden door opened and revealed Fang Yuan. He walked out and his essence, spirit and magic were very different now.

"I have spent numerous years spent on the theory of the dream world and this has become the foundation. It will be combined with the experiments conducted in the real word to form the threshold for the Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique to make a breakthrough for Wu Zong!"

He looked at his Dantian.

The originally sky-blue miniature elemental force had slowly settled down into a liquid similar to mercury. It appeared tumultuous and dynamic, like a sleeping dragon. Its power was unthinkable.

"This is the Wu Zong's elemental force!!"

Fang Yuan let out a long breath and look at his stats window.

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 10

Spirit: 10

Magic: 8.5

Profession: Dream Master (Dream-accessing)

Cultivation: [Dream Master (1st Tier) (Fused Elemental Force)], Wu Zong

Technique: [Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique (Grade 13) (???)], Ecstasy Spell, Shadowstep

Skill: [Medicine (Level 3)], [Botany (Level 4)]"

"Dream Master - You are the creator of dream worlds, and a traveller between dream and reality, and a nightmare for all your enemies! You can control you dream world at will, and you are everything in your dream world!"

"[Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique (Grade 13) (???) - You have achieved the impossible by fusing the Black Sand Palm, the Spirit Returning Heart Manual and Xuan Yin Heart Technique together to raise the peak level of the Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique to the level of Wu Zong. Your martial arts' elemental force would be encapsulated with stronger poison, stronger aura and stronger Yin!"]

"Bewildering spell - a spiritual technique of a dream master. Able to release a bewildering fog at will, disrupting an enemy's concentration. Currently able to have a considerable effect on a martial artist at the 4 Heavenly Gates."

"Shadowstep - a physical skill of a dream master. It is illusionary and untraceable."

"[Medicine (Level 3)] - You are an expert in medicine and others see you as a powerful doctor. You will be able to treat any strange and complicated diseases successfully! (Such ability is not limited to humans)"

[Botany (Level 4)] - Your hands are considered holy. With your personal cultivation of the spiritual plants, the chances of plants growing in a good condition are increased tremendously. You will have a small magical power of being awoken."

It seemed like the big changes to his stats was due to the previous two breakthroughs.

"My martial arts has improved to the realm of the elemental force!"

Fang Yuan sighed softly and saw that the Iron-tailed Black Eagle was right in front of him. It was looking down and it felt close to him.

Even since his previous failure, he didn't dare to take a peep at the Red-eyed White King Bird. He had shifted his target to the Iron-tailed Black Eagle and the Flower Fox Ferret who are closer to him.

As expected, after a few rounds of dream access, he not only felt that he had grasped the essentials of becoming a dream-accessing master, he was much closer to the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

"It has been 5 days already. Let's go!"

He went on the back of the eagle and made a soft noise.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle spread its wings and flew very quickly into the sky. It then disappeared into the thick fog.....

.....

The secluded valley was very quiet in the morning.

The thin fog started to fade under the bright sunlight and the mist on the leaves reflected the sunlight to form with a rainbow coloured light.

The Flower Fox Ferret was patrolling the farm in a relaxing mood. It was as if it was an old rich man who was looking at his own precious assets.

Little Pearl had prepared a roasted fish for the Flower Fox Ferret for breakfast. At a distance away, a few old farmers came and finished up the dried food supplies. They then continued their farming.

"Where has Sir gone to? The time for him to consider is already up since it has been 5 days!"

Zhou Wenwu and a few others were in a different situation from the farmers. They were very uneasy now.

"The sect master from the Spirit Returning Sect has reached the Qingye City and she will be here today. How do we deal with her?"

Yu Xinlou's forehead was forming cold sweat as well.

"Sir is very mysterious. Maybe he is caught up in some emergency matters and that's why he is not here yet...."

Zhou Wenwu said with a wry grin. He took a glance at Huang Fu Renhe, who was beside Miss Lanruo and shook his head.

If the situation would reach a point that it couldn't be salvaged, these siblings would be considered lucky if they could still be out there wandering around afterwards.

"I hope Sir will be back soon, or else we don't know what can happen here...."

He was having complicated feelings and didn't seem like he was an outsider.

Zhang Sheng was very silent and was outside sweeping. He seemed to be using a little more force than usual, which made it seemed like he was not really at peace.

"The sect master of the Spirit Returning Sect has arrived. Where is Fang Yuan?"

Suddenly, a clear voice was heard from the valley outside and this shook Zhou Wenwu a little.

"The Spirit Returning Sect.....is here!"

Zhou Wenwu gave a wry grin and look left and right. He then realised he was the most senior here and had no choice but to take the initiative. "Let's go and welcome them!"

Outside the valley, Lin Leiyue looked at the entrance of the valley and was doubtful. "Since master, you are feeling suspicious about him, why do you need us here?"

"I will need you to find out his bottom line! I don't know whether the secluded valley is involved with the matter and we will need to investigate. It will not be good if we alert him at the initial stage!"

Shi Yutong replied while sitting by a soft bridge and she was looking at her fingernails.

"Yes, Master!"

Lin Leiyue felt a little strange but she followed her orders anyway.

Not long after, a few silhouettes appeared in the secluded valley.

"Greetings, Sect Master. We are honoured to have you here but Fang Yuan is caught up with matters and is not in the valley currently...."

Yu Xinlou was a hired master of the business council and therefore had the ability to welcome the guests.

"Zhou Wenwu!!"

Lin Leiyue frowned and saw a person who was hiding. She then said, "You are from my sect but why have you left your position and chose to come here? You better come out right now!"

She was already very unhappy with Zhou Wenwu for helping others secretly from the start and had decided to question him now.

"I.....this....."

Zhou Wenwu had difficulty answering her.

Technically speaking, even though Fang Yuan was incredible, he was slightly inferior to the Spirit Returning Sect.

However, when he recalled how Fang Yuan had helped him in many ways, that didn't matter to him.

"Hey brat, your name is Wenwu, right?"

Shi Yutong looked at Zhou Wenwu and had a little banter with him. "If I didn't remember wrongly, I gave you your position in the sect as I pitied you when Deacon Zhou was dead. You were then able to continue your father's legacy and you are not grateful for it? Hmm?!"

"Bang!!"

How scary was the Spirit Returning Sect?

She squinted her eyes. A huge pressure was felt everywhere, and Zhou Wenwu, who was in front, was shivering in fear. He could feel his inner force coming to a halt, as his knees were about to hit the ground uncontrollably.

Shi Yutong seemed to have displayed her might on purpose. Such great pressure not only overwhelmed Zhou Wenwu, it began to spread further. Yu Xinlou, Huang Fu Renhe and a few of the others were overwhelmed by it.

Just when Fang Yuan's men were overwhelmed and about to be defeated totally by Shi Yutong, a loud chirp came from the sky above.

"Chirp!"

With a strong gust of wind, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle landed in the secluded valley and was looking very proud.

"Your remarks are overboard, Sect Master Shi!"

Fang Yuan got down from the Iron-tailed Black Eagle and his voice could be heard very clearly in the area.

"Sir!"

Seeing Fang Yuan's arrival, the people in the secluded valley then recovered from their shock.

"Spiritual bird!"

Lin Leiyue was surprised when she saw the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

She could feel a great pressure from the eagle and it was comparable to a 4 Heavenly Gates martial artist. With its fast flying speed, even a Wu Zong couldn't catch up with it.

After all, a martial artist cannot fly!

She took a deep breath and knew that Fang Yuan had relied on it.

'Luckily my master is here. The presence of this spiritual bird will not affect the overall situation!'

Lin Leiyue secretly bit her teeth and was surprised to see that her master was also surprised.

"You are Fang Yuan?!"

Shi Yutong got up slowly and gave a serious look.

"Yes, I am.....What advice do you have for me, Sect Master Shi?"

Fang Yuan's elemental force in his Dantian was flowing and surging in his body. He was feeling very excited.

After the breakthrough, he had wanted to duel with another one who was of a similar level as him. Shi Yutong was definitely the most suitable candidate for that.

"You are so young, yet you have already reached the realm of the elemental force. I feel ashamed of myself!"

Shi Yutong sighed while she said. Her words felt like tornadoes as they spread across the whole area.

"What? Elemental Force? Wu Zong?!"

Lin Leiyue retreated a few steps and saw her master had said that with a serious face. She then realised that she had not heard wrongly and her mind was blank all of a sudden.

She didn't expect that Fang Yuan had managed to reach such a level!

What did Wu Zong mean?

It meant that in the Secluded Mountain Prefecture, one could open his or her own sect and own a county. The person would then be the leader of a powerful sect!

This was a dream that many martial artists had wished for but it was very to achieve it.

Even though Lin Leiyue was skilful enough and Shi Yutong had mentioned that there was hope for her to achieve Wu Zong, her probability of having a successful breakthrough was just slightly higher than the rest. On the other hand, Fang Yuan had actually made a breakthrough with solid proof and the difference between the two of them was very big.

"What? Sir, you have broken through Wu Zong?"

"That's great!"

Compared to Lin Leiyue's uneasiness, Zhou Wenwu, Huang Fu Renhe and the rest were very happy. They knew what Wu Zong was and they knew that they would likely be able to pass through the current situation safely. From today onwards, the secluded valley would be a stable and powerful region in Qinghe County.

"Keke!"

Fang Yuan seemed to be eager to have a duel with Shi Yutong. Shi Yutong then laughed and asked, "From your breath, I can see that you have only just make the breakthrough. Why? You can't wait to have a duel with me now?"

"If you can give a few bits of advice or so, I will be very grateful!"

Fang Yuan replied.

"Very well!"

Shi Yutong slowly asked, "Right here?"

"Right here it is!"

Fang Yuan had concealed some of his magical energy and Shi Yutong didn't manage to see his bottom line. She only thought that Fang Yuan was just a person who had just achieved Wu Zong and gave him a serious look when she asked about it.

"Whooosh!"

Lin Leiyue and the rest of the Spirit Returning Sect disciples retreated to a distance away and were stretching their necks to watch the duel. Both parties were feeling hopeful of this duel.

It was rare to see a duel between two Wu Zongs!

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 113: The Challenge

A gentle wind blew at the entrance of the secluded valley, stirring up the sand on the ground.

The entire place was silent; a pin drop could be heard.

"Brother Yu, Brother Huang Fu..."

Zhou Wenwu's palms started to sweat as he focused on Fang Yuan and Shi Yutong. "Even though Master is Wu Zong, he had only just attained it, whereas the Sect Master of Spirit Returning Sect is an experienced Wu Zong..."

"Which one of us can actually guess what Master is thinking?"

Yu Xinlou was equally worried but appeared calm. "Maybe Master just wants to show off his Wu Zong capabilities to scare them off. After all... Master is only 20, right? Even if he loses this match who would dare to belittle him?"

Huang Fu Renhe nodded his head in agreement.

Even the weakest Wu Zong would be far stronger than a [Martial Artist (12th Gate)] at his peak.

Taking Fang Yuan's age into consideration, people would think that he was a demon with extreme gifts! His future cannot be fathomed!

Fang Yuan did not know what his followers were thinking.

But if he knew that they had decided in their minds that he was not Shi Yutong's match, he would be speechless.

"I cultivate as both a martial artist and a spiritual knight. Even if I concealed my cultivation as a dream master, my magic is still much higher than that of a normal Wu Zong. This is where my advantage lies. Therefore, I could take on the experienced Wu Zongs without any worry. By taking on Shi Yutong today, I can further set a name for the secluded valley!"

His thoughts ran wild in his mind as he took a quick glance at Shi Yutong.

"Master Fang, I am a lady, so I shall have the first move!"

Shi Yutong felt that he was distracted at the moment and therefore struck first!

Her movements were swift. With continuous footsteps, she appeared in front of Fang Yuan like a ghost. Her delicate hands suddenly transformed into palms and struck down on Fang Yuan.

At where she originally was, there was still a shadow, and her words seemed to come from there as well.

"What a good timing!"

Fang Yuan laughed, raised both of his hands and without retreating or counter-attacking, he countered with brute force!

Seeing this, Shi Yutong's beautiful eyes became suspicious, as she exerted her elemental force. Her hands seemed as though they could melt jade; the green veins were distinct and visible.

"Spirit Returning Strike! White Lotus Palm?"

Lin Leiyue shrieked; she knew that her master had exerted all her force in one move, and even used her secret technique!

"Ping!"

A large sound was heard followed by a wave of vibration travelling in all directions. The people of the secluded valley and Spirit Returning Sect all took a few steps back, and there was rumbling in their ears.

In the battlefield, the two silhouettes came into contact and immediately flew apart. Both of them gained their footing shortly.

Fang Yuan appeared emotionless and looked at his own arms.

"Pa!"

His clothing was suddenly torn apart and flew into the air like butterflies, revealing his muscular build and smooth skin.

As Shi Yutong witnessed this scene she held her hands behind her back, as she did not gain any advantage from this opening move. Her eyes were full of suspicion. "Using a rough technique to break through to Wu Zong? What technique is this? 13 Golden Bells Concealment Technique? Or the Golden Jade Bone Formula? No... It doesn't seem like any of it!"

Those who used rough techniques to break through Wu Zong were crazy about martial arts and would use brute force in combat with little to no weaknesses. This gave Shi Yutong a headache.

"Whoosh! Whip!

At the same time, Fang Yuan's body produced popping sounds, all the way from his spine every piece of bone. He stretched all five fingers out and swiped, bringing with it a strong gust of wind. "One more time!"

"Chirp!"

With the end of his sentence, he flew forward and the friction with the air made a high-pitched chirping sound. He stretched his hand above Shi Yutong's head, and the force which popped within his body a few moments ago hardened his body and travelled to his arms and fingers, all the way to his fingertips. His fingernails were sharp as a knife and his fingers went for her head.

His hand had yet to land, but the wind from the fingertips could already stun her scalp.

Shi Yutong retained her composure and with a face of compassion, clasp her hands together in front of her chest. "Compassionate Seal!"

A holy light appeared on her face as her elemental energy formed a ring of protection around her; it was as though the compassionate Buddha had arrived at the mortal world.

"Break... it!"

Fang Yuan disregarded the protection and with his rough technique, struck down hard with his right hand, like a hammer.

"Crush!"

The exertion of energies was a different scene in the audience's eyes.

It was as though a ruthless large eagle was shrieking, with its sharp talons striking towards a Buddha in white robes!

After a short moment, Shi Yutong screamed and dodged away from where she stood; what was left there was Fang Yuan, who slowly stood up.

"Master... is actually at the disadvantage!"

Seeing their silhouettes come together once again, and looking Shi Yutong's messy robes, Lin Leiye's eyeballs almost popped out.

Never would she have imagined that her god-like master would be pressured and put at a disadvantage by Fang Yuan!

"Good technique!"

Shi Yutong looked at Fang Yuan with suspicion in her eyes. "Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique?!"

After exchanging a few hands, she seemed to have understood Fang Yuan's technique but still could not believe her eyes.

When did this ordinary 4 Heavenly Gate martial arts technique gain the ability to break its limits?

"Indeed... What does Sect Master think about it?"

Fang Yuan shrugged his neck, and his laughter struck fear.

Although he had only just attained Wu Zong, Shi Yutong was fighting with him in terms of rough techniques, and by pitting her weakness against his strength, she would obviously lose.

"Great! Indeed, a young warrior! I guess I'll have to deal with you like a real opponent!"

Shi Yutong blushed, and once again placed her palms together.

"Rumble!"

A white glow appeared from her body, and in mid-air, pieces of white flower petals were floating around. These petals came together to form white lotus flowers which gradually landed on the ground.

"Releasing elemental force! Forming a figure outside the body!!!"

Yu Xinlou exclaimed. "This is a battle between pure elemental forces. Master had just attained Wu Zong, and have yet to explore the uses of magical energy, I'm afraid..."

"Oh? Finally the real deal?"

The white lotus flowers seemed like an illusion, but in fact, every petal was extremely heavy and had the ability to explode.

Fang Yuan witnessed this scene and smiled. "Great, I've just completed my warm-up!"

Elemental force was the force that cultivators harness!

Although he had only just attained Wu Zong, he had previously attained the title of a dream master, and therefore the fight between magical energies was at the same level.

"The releasing of elemental force and forming a figure is merely the control of one's own elemental force... Those with a higher magical energy would therefore have an advantage!"

As he thought to himself, Fang Yuan carefully transferred his elemental force from his Dantian to his arms and released it.

Even though he used his magical energy to assist him in harnessing his elemental energy, the assistance that he had gotten was not to be belittled. As of now, he had fine and delicate control of his elemental force, which was better than that of many Wu Zongs!

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Accompanying the high-pitched chirping, Fang Yuan's claw struck out. A large black eagle claw appeared in mid-air, which reflected light like the finest metal, and every slight detail of the claw was distinctly visible, as the claw struck out.

"Pa! Pa!"

Many white lotus flowers were swiped at by the eagle claw and disappeared in mid-air; what was left was white dots that fell to the ground.

"How is this possible?"

Shi Yutong took a few steps back, and a chill went down her spine.

The releasing of elemental force and the forming of figures was something only experienced Wu Zongs could do. It was obvious that Fang Yuan only just attained Wu Zong, so how did he have this ability?

Needless to say, the lifelike Eagle Claw figure was much stronger than her figure!

This shouldn't be happening!

"This level of gift... Demonic!"

"Rumble!"

The large eagle claw struck downwards without mercy. Shi Yutong dodged it like how a willow would bend in the wind as she twisted her waist. Her breathing was rapid, and she took a glance at Lin Leiyue who was watching the fight and sighed.

This disciple of hers was already rather gifted, but compared to Fang Yuan, she was nothing.

In the beginning, she missed out on the opportunity and only appreciated the pearl, but gave the uncut jade a miss.

It was too late as everything had already developed to this stage, and there was no turning back.

"Haha! Again!"

Of course, Fang Yuan did not know what Shi Yutong was thinking.

Conversely, he was increasingly excited as the battle ensued.

Shi Yutong was the best teacher he could have, as she selflessly gave out all her Wu Zong combat experience during this fight. Secretly, he wished for her to be able to hold on a little longer, just for the fight to last a little longer.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Both his claws struck forward with his elemental force in mid-air. One claw came from the left, and the other from the right, trapping Shi Yutong in the middle!

"Bloom and grow!"

Shi Yutong's palms pushed outwards as she exerted her elemental force, destroying the two Eagle Claw figures, as she shook hard.

"Whoosh!"

Within the fog, Fang Yuan appeared and another claw came from above!

The Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique breaking through to Wu Zong meant that his strength was not in releasing his elemental energy, but in using his heavy and brute physical techniques.

"Pa!"

A piece of elemental force white flower petal landed on Fang Yuan and exploded, but he was unharmed. Fang Yuan maintained his swiftness and came in front of Shi Yutong, striking his right claw out.

Shi Yutong suddenly felt a cold sense of danger.

It was a feeling that she had not felt in a long while.

Obviously, his young Wu Zong had the ability to kill her! And he had the intention to!

"Ping!"

She raised her hands with much effort to block the claw and subsequently retreated. Her expression changed as she spat out a mouthful of blood!

"Master!"

Witnessing this scene, Lin Leiyue rushed forward, but it was all too late.

Fang Yuan seemed to be too engrossed in the fight and there was no way for him to calm down. He chased her and struck his claws continuously to force Shi Yutong to a certain spot.

As the most critical moment, the sound of a flute was heard which, as though an armoured cavalry came to the rescue.

A graceful figure appeared from the woods blowing her flute.

"Indeed there is someone else!"

Fang Yuan laughed and took a step back.

"Cough cough... Master Fang is highly skilled, and I cannot match it!"

Only at this point did Shi Yutong had the breathing space to declare defeat, and her face turned pale, which showed that she had suffered from severe injuries.

"You are... Ling Yin?"

Before the fight even began, Fang Yuan already realised someone spying on them, and purposely fought hard to force the spy out. Only then did he realise that it was the mysterious spiritual disciple which he met at Secluded Mountain Court.

"My greetings to Master Fang!"

Ling Yin chuckled. "The moment we met, I knew that you were not an ordinary person, and who would've known that you are now at the level of a Wu Zong..."

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 114: Split Up

"Have you and Fang Yuan met before?"

Shi Yutong was suspicious and continued. "You are the disciple of the great alchemy master Lu Renjia, and since he loves to nurture the younger generation, he would be overjoyed to know about the talented Fang Yuan!"

Hearing this polite yet threatening words, Fang Yuan remained calm, squinted his eyes and revealed a cold look. "You only appeared at the end of the fight. I see that you have the intention to help this Sect Master secretly?"

He had already witnessed the two sisters fighting side by side against the Five Ghost Sect Sect Master; he knew that he would not be so lucky and that Shi Yutong would definitely bring assistance with her.

Shi Yutong could easily overpower any normal Wu Zong without any help.

Even if a spiritual knight had ambushed them, the two ladies could still defend themselves and escape.

After all, being the favourite disciple of an alchemy master, and in troubled times like this, how could she not bring a few treasures for self-defence?

Fang Yuan still did not forget how Ling Yin fought the Blood Killer with her emerald flashes.

'The likes of an alchemy master can harness spiritual fire for alchemy and is therefore sought after by many cultivators. Therefore, it is only normal that they are wealthy... If I strike now, I am only 30% confident to take down both of them, so it would only be wiser to take them down one by one!'

"How would little sister dare?"

Even if she was the disciple of an alchemy master, she still lowered her status while talking to another Wu Zong.

After all, although spiritual disciples harness a miniature version of elemental force, and were able to cast a few elementary spiritual techniques, they would still be no match when against true elemental force.

Ling Yin felt her hair standing on its ends as Fang Yuan stared at her. She felt insecure, and a little embarrassed.

"If that is so, let's discuss the important stuff!"

Fang Yuan turned his head and came straight to the point while looking at Shi Yutong. "What is the purpose of Sect Master coming here personally?"

"This..."

Shi Yutong froze.

She intended to defeat the doctor at the secluded valley first to let him know her prowess before extorting some spiritual rice.

However, the other party was now a Wu Zong!

Not just a Wu Zong, but a Wu Zong that was more powerful than herself!

How could she state her conditions now?

“Hehe... I have received news that Leiyue’s fiancé is here and therefore came here specially to visit. The criteria set previously were but a joke, right?”

Ling Yin took a few steps forward and tugged at Shi Yutong’s sleeve, as she hinted her with her expression.

“That’s right! That’s why I have come here!”

A Wu Zong is worth establishing a good relationship with, and especially when the Wu Zong is so strong!

If she could convince him to join their alliance, losing a female disciple wouldn’t matter!

After weighing things out, Shi Yutong came to a conclusion and looked at Lin Leiyue.

‘Master...’

Once Lin Leiyue understood her master’s intentions, she blushed and felt agonised.

Her proud personality did not resonate with the fact that she was treated like a gift or a compensation. What made things worse was that Fang Yuan once rejected her!

‘Indeed an experienced person. A Sect Master’s words are indeed heavy...’

Fang Yuan noticed Lin Leiyue’s minute actions.

He recalled how Shi Yutong convinced Yu Qiuleng to force himself to reject the marriage previously, which was a 180-degrees change to how she was treating him now, after witnessing how highly-skilled he was.

“Forget about it. Why would I still mull over the marriage incident?”

Fang Yuan waved his hand. “Please take your leave, I won’t send you!”

Hearing his heartless words, Shi Yutong looked at Ling Yin and forced a smile.

They knew that it did not matter to Fang Yuan whether they were on the same side or now. Furthermore, they could feel that he was irritated by his words.

Lin Leiyue shivered.

After she finally convinced herself to sacrifice her future for the Sect, Fang Yuan could reject her effortlessly.

This scene became a joke compared to the fight at the beginning!

Her face became flushed as she felt that everyone was mocking her. She could not control herself and her tears flowed out, as she turned around and ran away.

“Keke... My disciple is so mischievous, don’t take it to heart!”

Shi Yutong took a step back. “Since Master Fang has no intention, then Sister Ling Yin and myself shall not disturb you any further, we shall take our leave!”

As a Sect Master, her words had weight.

As they took their leave, there was no chaos. With a Wu Zong and a spiritual disciple leading the way, the rest dispersed orderly.

...

In the forest, Shi Yutong instructed the Sect disciples to find Lin Leiyue, and hinted to Ling Yin to take another path.

Not long after, they arrived at a small cliff and looked far out. Everywhere was forest-green.

“Good, we are more than 10 miles away now, we can speak here!”

As the gentle breeze blew, Shi Yutong said, “Even though Fang Yuan is more skilled than me, I can still eavesdrop on him!”

“Since you say so, I am assured! However, just in case...”

Ling Yin smirked and took out a spiritual talisman, which burst into flames without any wind. From the crimson flame, a spiritual print emerged and glowed. It imprinted itself on her forehead and glittered.

“Mmm... There is no second Wu Zong nearby!”

She closed her eyes for a moment and concluded.

“Harnessing the ability of the spiritual talisman, you are able to increase your magical energy and increase your detection ability to be on par with that of spiritual knights. I am relieved!”

Shi Yutong nodded her head in satisfaction and admired how Ling Yin could sacrifice a spiritual talisman without hesitation just for her.

She did not have an alchemy master as her backer and therefore could not be as extravagant as her.

“Sister, you do not want to admit that you have lost, is that right?”

Ling Yin smiled cheekily. “You have painstakingly planned this, but who would’ve known that there would be such a change of events! If this news spreads, the families and organisations that we have convinced might reconsider their loyalty!”

“We cannot help it. After all, who would’ve known that he could suddenly become a Wu Zong?”

Shi Yutong was bitter. She shook her head and became resolute. “After seeing him, I am sure that Elder Han’s disappearance is related to the secluded valley! Furthermore, it might even be related to other stronger powers...”

“Is this why you did not allow me to fight just now?”

Ling Yin toyed with the jade bangle on her wrist. “If we teamed up against him, we might be able to defeat him, like how we did against the Five Ghosts Sect Master the previous time, hehe...”

She turned serious. “Before the war, such a change in Qinghe County would be against my master. Do you have the confidence to be able to convince him to be on our side?”

“As of now, I’m afraid not!”

Shi Yutong bit her lip. “You are also aware of the marriage rejection incident. Seeing how he responded just now, you could tell that it did not matter to him anymore. If we had to blame someone, it would be that disciple of mine who could not manage the situation properly...”

“Then this is troubling. If he chose to strike us at a critical moment, as a Wu Zong, he would bring us a lot of trouble!”

Ling Yin looked down in despair.

“Sister, what do you mean?”

Shi Yutong guessed. “Strike first? That’s right! Making the first move is a good idea!”

“Let’s not delay it any further. I’ll find my master and get him to send some highly skilled martial artists to help us out!”

Ling Yin replied.

These two ladies were decisive. In a few words, they had concluded that there was no way to convince Fang Yuan to help them, and immediately thought of killing him as the solution!

Unless they had enough resources, otherwise they had to get rid of those getting in the way before the war begins.

“That’s a good idea!”

Shi Yutong wanted to say something but was interrupted by a red firework in the sky.

“That is the Sect’s signal. It seems that they have found Leiyue, oh...”

Shi Yutong nodded her head. “She is not mature enough yet. Maybe I shouldn’t have used the spiritual rice and spiritual pill to aid her in breaking through the Pain Gate then...”

“If you did not aid her in becoming an inner force martial artist, how can she defend herself in times of war and conflict? This only showed your care and love for her...”

Ling Yin smiled. “I was joking just now. You will surely reconcile with your disciple after a good talk!”

“Thank you, sister, for understanding, I shall make a move first!”

Hearing how understanding Ling Yin was, Shi Yutong stood up and used her Lightness Skill. After a few jumps, she disappeared into the forest.

“Eh... I am so jealous of Leiyue for having such a good master!”

Ling Yin knew that the master and disciple needed their private space to talk and so did not follow her. She looked in the direction where Shi Yutong went, sighed and at the same time suddenly felt worried.

The cricket sounds around the forest made the forest feel even more eerily silent.

A breeze blew across her face, and she shivered.

She felt the feeling of danger, and her mind was empty, as though she had done something wrong.

“Danger? That’s impossible, I’ve checked that the surroundings were clear just now! Even if I’ve separated from sister, as long as I am not being followed, what should I be worried about?”

Even such, Ling Yin’s palm subconsciously rubbed her jade bangle as she scanned the surroundings on high alert.

“You are quite alert!”

A clear voice travelled from afar. It was a young voice and brought with it a sense of familiarity.

“It’s you!”

As the fog thinned out, Ling Yin saw a figure walking out of the fog and clenched her teeth. “Fang Yuan!!! Impossible! Even if you are Wu Zong, you should not be able to hide from Shi Yutong’s and I!”

“Then why is it that you still cannot detect me? Do you want to make a guess?”

Fang Yuan moved his feet and his entire body floated forward. It split into 10 bodies, which confused anyone who would see him.

And his speed was completely different from when he was fighting Shi Yutong previously.

At the same time, a huge spiritual pressure was exerted.

“Spiritual knight?”

Ling Yin’s face changed.

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 115: Hunting Down

Ling Yin retreated quickly and the weapons on her body were reflecting light.

She didn't expect Fang Yuan to be able to conceal himself that much. His spiritual techniques and martial arts not only had been improved tremendously, he had managed to break through the threshold of the elemental force!

Fang Yuan was not only a Wu Zong but also a spiritual knight. Obviously, he had managed to pass both her and Shi Yutong's checks successfully and even heard the secret conversation between the both of them. He had also decided to attack when both of them were separated.

"Sir, please listen to my explanation first!"

In quick succession, Ling Yin activated many spiritual talismans and equipment to defend herself. With a change in the pitch of her voice, the green bangle emitted a bright emerald glow, which then transformed into a small dagger, ready to fly out of her hands.

Unfortunately, she could only achieve this step.

"Ecstasy spell!"

Fang Yuan executed the spell and the surrounding fog started to get denser like a tsunami. Ling Yin was overwhelmed by the fog.

In the white fog, there was a flash of green light and a female voice.

"Pa!"

The emerald green coloured bracelet landed on the ground and rolled to Fang Yuan's feet.

"Disperse!"

Fang Yuan snapped his fingers and the fog from the spell started to fade away. It then revealed Ling Yin who was unconscious.

Even though she had so many layers of defence, she was not immune to the spell executed by a dream master.

"I am a dream master and it will be strange if I can't even handle a spiritual disciple!"

Fang Yuan picked the bracelet up and shook his head.

He would probably be worried if he was dealing with both Ling Yin and Shi Yutong at the same time. However, he would just be worried that he cannot use his full power in front the both of them.

Since now both of them were separated, it was much easier to ambush one of them.

This spiritual disciple who had managed to suppress the Five Ghosts Sect Master and the Blood Killer was easily defeated and there was barely any resistance.

"My dream master's spiritual techniques tackle one's mind. What's the use of having so many layers of defence?"

Fang Yuan squatted down.

With a flash of light, Ling Yin's defences started to fade and her defences were formed into a few charms and weapons.

"Hehe.....her teacher is indeed an alchemy master. Look at all these charms and weapons....."

Seeing the many spiritual charms and weapons that were on her body, Fang Yuan shamelessly took everything from her without even leaving a bottle of medicine for her.

After he was done, Fang Yuan then sent out a signal.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Along with the high pitched noise from an eagle and a strong gust of wind, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle landed.

"Bring me to Shi Yutong!"

Fang Yuan got onto the back of the eagle with a serious look.

He was not prepared to let her go and since he had already attacked Ling Yin, he would want to defeat the other one as well!

"However....my actions have offended Lu Renjia. If I don't want to be out there and running for my life in future, I will have to be on Liu Yan's side."

Fang Yuan murmured and was wavered.

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle charged into the sky and disappeared into the layers of cloud.

.....

"Master...."

Beside a spiritual spring.

Lin Leiyue tucked her arms and sat on a green rock. She looked at the flowing spring water and there were a few black fishes swimming in the water. She then recalled the days when she was younger.

Back when Master Wenxin was still alive, her father had much admiration for Master Wenxin and they visited him often.

It was that spring when she first met Fang Yuan and both Lin Leiyue and Fang Yuan were still very young.

Master Wenxin liked Lin Leiyue a lot and proposed a marriage between Lin Leiyue and Fang Yuan. Her father gladly accepted it.

However, no one expected Master Wenxin to pass away so soon as he was highly skilled in medicine. Also, Lin Leiyue was valued by Master Wenxin but now everything had changed since Master Wenxin's passing.

She didn't expect that Fang Yuan, who was previously alone and had no one to depend on, was able to improve tremendously in terms of his cultivation and skills in medicine on his own. His business in the secluded valley was thriving and he had even made a breakthrough for Wu Zong already!

Even though she was talented and spiritual, Master Shi Yutong had only mentioned that there was a chance, and not a guarantee, for her to achieve Wu Zong!

One had the potential while the other had the ability to achieve Wu Zong. The difference between the both of them was very big!

Even her master was generous in her words and had sacrificed Lin Leiyue's looks to pull Fang Yuan to their side.

'This world.....only respects the powerful ones. If one wants to control his or her destiny, he or she will need to have the ability to do so!'

As she was looking at the shadows formed in the water, Lin Leiyue clenched her fists.

Suddenly, a reflection of another person appeared on the surface of the water.

"Leiyue, are you blaming me?"

Shi Yutong was beside Lin Leiyue and she asked with a gentle voice.

"I dare not to blame you!"

Lin Leiyue quickly got up.

"You didn't dare, but that didn't mean that you did not....."

Shi Yutong shook her head and said, "However, this is human nature. I'm not blaming you!"

"Master.....for the greater good of the sect, I'm willing to sacrifice!"

Lin Leiyue bit her teeth and continued, "No matter how Fang Yuan humiliates me, I will seek for his understanding....."

"It's good that you are willing to sacrifice for the sect!"

Shi Yutong's eyes glittered. "However, you don't have to worry this matter anymore!"

"What?"

Lin Leiyue was very surprised. "He is a Wu Zong!"

"Under normal circumstances, I can understand why you will choose to let this matter go, but now the situation is different. We have many allies and Master Lu, and won't a Wu Zong be just a small issue to us?"

Shi Yutong gave a cold look and said, "Fang Yuan is too powerful and he hates me. He has become the most unstabilised factor and I will have to remove him before the big battle!"

"This..."

Lin Leiyue was startled and speechless. However, she was feeling relieved at the same time.

"Chirp! Chirp!"

Suddenly, a small green bird appeared and landed on the shoulder of the Shi Yutong. The bird was chirping anxiously.

"Bad news. Ling Yin is in trouble!"

Shi Yutong's expression changed and Lin Leiyue was surprised by her it as it was her first time seeing that expression from her master.

"Before I got separated from Ling Yin, I had the green bird to watch over Ling Yin just in case anything happened to her. Since the bird is so anxious now, something bad must have happened to her.....In this county, the only person who can do this is Fang Yuan!"

Shi Yutong brought Lin Leiyue along and they went into the forest quickly with their lightness skill. "Our secret plans must have been discovered and we are bound to get killed by Fang Yuan! There is no room for Ling Yin to escape!"

Lin Leiyue was sluggish and knew that the secret plans made by Master and Ling Yin must have been discovered by Fang Yuan and Ling Yin was probably killed.

Isn't this an irony when Shi Yutong had asked her not to worry about the matter just now?

"Chirp! Chirp!"

However, it was not a good time to care about these conflicting matters now.

With the loud chirp from an eagle, a giant eagle appeared from the layers of cloud and it spread its wings. A giant black shadow was formed.

"How is this possible?"

Shi Yutong's expression changed completely.

She had purposely chosen a small pathway in the forest which was concealed by the tall trees. However, that giant eagle was still able to locate her wherever she went.

"Hoo! Hoo!"

There was a strong gust of wind and the Iron-tailed Black Eagle took a shot. Its sharp claws had broken an old tree into half.

"This is not good!"

Shi Yutong pushed Lin Leiyue away and said, "Fang Yuan must have done something on us and that's why he is able to locate us. Looks like we will have to split. Leave now!"

Shi Yutong let go of her hand and caused Lin Leiyue to be pushed at a distance away in another direction.

"Master!"

Lin Leiyue was teary and had no choice but to leave the place.

Behind her, she heard a loud voice and a loud eagle's chirp.

The eagle was not giving Shi Yutong any mercy and it went straight towards her.

"Fang Yuan, it's really you!"

Shi Yutong's voice then came. Another clear voice was heard. "Ling Yin has been defeated. Sect Master, you have injuries and you are definitely no match for me. What are you waiting for?"

"I would rather die in the name of justice than to surrender!"

Shi Yutong sighed and continued, "I didn't handle this matter properly and hence I landed myself in this trouble. I admitted that I had lost but I would want to fight to the death for honour!"

"Very well!"

Fang Yuan's voice was projected and an explosion then came.

Lin Leiyue heard what happened and her heart sank. She knew that Fang Yuan had caught up with her master and there was no chance for her to escape already.

Even though she was still confident in her master, her master was previously defeated by Fang Yuan. Hence, how lucky would she be this time?

"Fang Yuan!"

She bit her teeth and escaped with tears in her eyes. She swore in her heart, "I...I will have my revenge one day!"

...

"Very good! Your courage is commendable!"

Fang Yuan praised Shi Yutong who was standing right in front of him.

Fang Yuan didn't care about Lin Leiyue who had started to run away.

Both of them were now not of similar grade and level.

Also, Shi Yutong had brought quite a few disciples from the Spirit Returning Sect and since they were all separated, it would be very troublesome to kill every one of them.

The current issue he was facing now was pressing and he would think about the rest later after he had defeated Shi Yutong.

"Eagle Claw Palm!"

"Compassionate Seal!"

"Bang!"

Releasing their elemental force, the figures clashed, and in the process broke many trees. The entire place was in a mess.

Shi Yutong was of no match for Fang Yuan as she was already injured. Currently, her messy hair and her bloody mouth made her look like she was in a poor state.

"Don't you think of escaping from me. Wherever you go, I will still be able to find you!"

Fang Yuan said coldly and kept discouraging Shi Yutong with his words.

"I know..."

Shi Yutong took a glance at the Iron-tailed Black Eagle and gave a wicked smile. "I have a question that needs to be answered. If I don't get the answer, I will not die in peace!"

"Are you wondering how I am able to track you down?"

Fang Yuan shook his head and said, "You will know the answer very soon!"

"What?"

Shi Yutong felt a great sense of danger coming towards her suddenly. She didn't think much and quickly transformed into 9 shadows. The 9 shadows then attacked from all directions.

"Ecstasy spell!"

Fang Yuan lifted his fingers lightly and the surrounding fog started to spread. All her shadows were engulfed in the fog.

"Is this...."

Shi Yutong was confused at first by the fog, but the elemental force inside her Dantian shook her and she was able to recover from the spell. She was very surprised and asked, "Is this.....a spiritual spell?"

"Peng!"

With her slight hesitance, she was on her way to her death since her enemy was a Wu Zong.

Fang Yuan suddenly appeared behind her and grabbed!

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 116: Knocking On The Door

Upon removing her face mask, Fang Yuan was shocked at the amazingly gorgeous looks of Shi Yutong.

Beneath her perfectly curved eyebrows were a pair of upward sloping eyes. She had a small mouth and flawless porcelain skin. Even though she was no longer youthful, age did not seem to have caught up with her. She looked like she was at most 30 years old, maybe with an aura of a much mature woman.

Even though she was in her coma, her beautiful eye brows and the slightly pained expression on her perfect was still sufficient to arouse the deepest desires of the men around her.

Even though Ling Yin was also considered to be a pretty woman, in the presence of Shi Yutong she paled in comparison.

"Sir...sir..."

Of course, Fang Yuan could casually enjoy this pleasant sight while the others beside him were in utter shock.

After stuttering about for quite some time, Zhou Wenwu finally got his words out of his mouth and said, "Sir...you...you said that you went out on a hunting trip earlier..."

'How did you end up bringing back these two ladies with you from your hunting trip?'

This was the most pressing question Zhou Wenwu had on his mind that he wanted to ask, but he could not muster the courage to do it.

"Oh...While I was on my trip I coincidentally heard these two ladies discussing about how to sabotage me, so I took action and brought them here!"

Fang Yuan dug his ear as he blatantly spoke the truth.

'It seems like you already had an ulterior motive before you embarked on this hunting trip and you just ended up stalking them.'

Yu Xinlou and a few others rolled their eyes at Fang Yuan's admission. Huang Fu Renhe coughed and stepped forward and asked, "Now that if have both of the sect heads of the Spirit Returning Sect, what is there to be afraid of them?"

"Correct!"

Zhou Wenwu's eyes brightened instantly and said, "Sir is also a Wu Zong too!"

The immense prestige of the Spirit Returning Sect caused Fang Yuan's judgement to be clouded a little earlier. Now that his mind has cleared, he felt a little indignant as he thought, "Anyone with the ability could live within Qinghe County! What makes the Spirit Returning Sect the natural owners of this area!"

"Keke..."

Fang Yuan rolled his eyes at this far-fetched thought.

Although admitted, now that the Secluded Mountain Valley had the supreme tutelage of Fang Yuan, a few martial artists who have broken through the 4 Heavenly Gates and the spiritual beasts, there was no difference between the Secluded Mountain Valley and the Spirit Returning Sect or Five Ghosts Sect. However, they were a world apart in terms of rootedness.

Based on Fang Yuan's calculations, it would be almost impossible for him to control Qingye City based on the little resources he had, unless all the disciples in the Spirit Returning Sect swore their allegiance to him.

If he attempted to control the county, it would definitely lead to chaos and unrest. The costs outweighed the benefits.

"Sorry for spouting rubbish sir!"

Zhou Wenwu blushed with embarrassment.

As a former disciple of the Spirit Returning Sect, Zhou Wenwu was in an awkward situation. He was very eager to demonstrate his loyalty to his new master. The best way to do was of course to denigrate his original sect as much as possible, to show that he had severed all ties with them.

"However, you made one excellent point. Maybe we will not take Qinghe County, but I definitely want to take down Qingye City."

Fang Yuan nodded his head and said, "Zhou Wenwu, what is the likelihood of you controlling a city if you return now?"

"Erm..."

Under Fang Yuan's strong influence, Zhou Wenwu responded, "If you rise to Wu Zong and the news of the capture of Shi Yutong spreads out, the likelihood is about 50 to 60 percent!"

"It seems like you are still clear headed, and your judgement has not been clouded!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head and said, "I'll place Flower Fox Ferret and Zhang Shengpai under your charge. Go back and rally everyone else immediately to detain or banish the disciples of the Spirit Returning Sect!"

"Yes sir!"

After some internal calculation, Zhou Wenwu concluded that after the removal of the Guo family, Qingye City was now up for contention amongst his own Zhou family, the Zhang family as well as Minister Lin's Lin family. The Zhang family was greatly influenced by the secluded valley and there was no problem convincing them. His only main obstacles were the Lin family and the Spirit Returning Sect. Minister Lin was a sly old fox, if he had known that Shi Yutong was defeated and captured, he might also switch allegiance or even maintain his neutrality for the sake of his family's survival.

As of now, the only person left to deal with was the new head of the city and a thousand disciples of the Spirit Returning Sect.

Zhou Wenwu witnessed the mighty powers of Flower Fox Ferret himself before. It was comparable to a martial artist of the 4 Heavenly Gates level. With the addition of the extremely powerful and formidable servant cleaner, there was a high chance the mission would succeed. Zhou Wenwu beamed with confidence at this thought.

If he could take advantage of this situation and strengthen the position of his family to become the top-ranking family in the city, the days ahead looked extremely hopeful.

"But sir...why aren't you leading this mission yourself?"

After Fang Yuan answered, a few doubts emerged in Zhou Wenwu's mind.

He believed that if Fang Yuan led the mission himself, with his reputation as a Wu Zong, the disciples of the Spirit Returning Sect might even give up without a fight and all the other families would swear allegiance to him automatically.

"I...naturally will have other more important things to tend to!"

Fang Yuan lifted up the two comatose women and mounted Iron-tailed Black Eagle and ordered, "Attend to your tasks. I hope that I can have Qingye City in my control by the time I return!"

"Kaw kaw!"

Iron-tailed Black Eagle flapped its wings and took off.

With the extra weight of two extra human beings, it was a slightly burdensome load for it. Nonetheless it still flew off and disappeared amongst the clouds.

...

"Even though I have captured these two women, I have brought more trouble for myself. Without considering Shi Yutong, Ling Yin is the disciple of Lu Renjia. If he finds out he will definitely not let this matter rest and I will have very little options available when he does that!"

Fang Yuan ordered Iron-tailed Black Eagle to fetch him to his secret hiding spots. He first dropped Shi Yutong off at the place he detained Lady Yan and then brought Ling Yin to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture City.

"Since I cannot trust Lu Renjia, I can only ally myself with the head of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. I think this stepping stone and application seems rather substantial!"

Fang Yuan took a glance at the comatose Ling Yin cradled in his arms indifference in his eyes.

Having gone through the training in his imaginary world, Fang Yuan was exposed to incredibly beautiful women. Ling Yin's aesthetic beauty could not sway him.

This sort of temporary beauty could not last in the long-term.

What attracted Fang Yuan's attention was the spiritual objects and other ornaments on Ling Yin.

"As long as one was a spiritual knight, one would be able to use spiritual prints to create a spiritual amulet. But most of these ornaments on her seem to be extremely rare charms..."

High up in mid-air, a translucent force floated up approximately 500 metres in front of Fang Yuan, blocking off the strong winds from reaching him, allowing him to sit steadily on the platform as he toyed with the green bangle in his hands.

"This spiritual item...seems very interesting..."

Fang Yuan's sight dug deep into the amulet. In no time, he dug out the most valuable item within the bangle.

The bangle was neither gold nor jade and spiritual light gleamed from it. Several spiritual prints lined the bangle, forming a chain.

"What a great spiritual item!"

Fang Yuan then attempted to inject some Dream Elemental Force into it and removed Ling Yin's original presence within it. Fang Yuan then decisively left his own mark inside it.

"Snap!"

In a burst of light, the green bangle turned into a dagger in his hands. On it, cold light enveloped the spiritual light earlier. Just by this sight one could tell it was not a normal item.

There were complicated writings on the body of the dagger, seemingly forming the olden words for "Green Snake".

"The Ancient Green Serpent Dagger?"

Fang Yuan let go of his hand and the magical energy dispersed. The green dagger melted into a ray of green light flowing about on his body as though it was a part of him.

"Outstanding!"

After this experiment, Fang Yuan was extremely delighted.

"Even though I am not an expert in using instruments or weapons, the power in this spiritual object is quite remarkable. It might even be good enough to be beneficial for a spiritual knight."

It was obvious that this was a gift from Lu Renjia to Ling Yin.

In reality, if Fang Yuan was a bit more aware, he would have known that Lu Renjia personally used this spiritual item before and was probably very well known for doing so amongst the higher echelons of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture.

By bestowing this give to Ling Yin, he sought to protect her through its reputation. Even if she ran into a spiritual knight or a Wu Zong, not many would risk offending him by attacking Ling Yin.

But going by Fang Yuan's unconventional way of thinking, Lu Renjia's plan not only failed, it also gave Fang Yuan an extra valuable spiritual item.

"You will be mine from now on!"

Even though Fang Yuan did not know much, he could judge from the response of Blood Killer and deduce that this dagger was extremely well-known. It could possible even be Lu Renjia's precious item.

However, he had already done the worst thing possible to offend Lu Renjia, it did not matter to Fang Yuan that he took away his precious item. At that point, he contentedly and happily kept the item and continued looking at his other loot.

"Erm, apart from a few spiritual amulets with unknown uses, the rest are just common pills. I'll let Huang Fu Renhe identify them when I get back..."

After a while, Fang Yuan rubbed his chin as though he was thinking of something.

He was slightly disappointed that he did not find any special alchemy or secret spiritual knight manuals on Ling Yin, but what he got was also irreplaceable.

"In fact, as a spiritual disciple, she is extremely valuable to me. Just by considering that fact that if I improve by one more level within the dream master realm and become a dream building master, I can extract everything that Lu Renjia taught her as long as it was not protected by magical will...."

A dream master had to be make extensive preparations to succeed. Even though Fang Yuan only mastered the dream elemental force, he had also received assistance on several other aspects which were sufficient for him to see many unexpected results!

...

Even though the Secluded Mountain Prefecture City was very far away from Qinghe County, it was only so if one were to travel by land.

At the blistering speed Iron-tailed Black Eagle flew at, in no time, Secluded Mountain Prefecture City appeared as a black giant in front of Fang Yuan.

In comparison to the grand and magnificent sight of earlier days, the city now looked devastated and run-down. What was left of the city was plastered full of burnt stains or blood stains. This was the obvious devastation of the ongoing war.

At that point, the head of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture, Liu Yan attempted to encircle Lu Renjia but he underestimated his opponent. Furthermore, he was slow in his execution of his strategy and had to deal with the rebellion of three strong families as well as some of the higher-ranking officers in the army. This brought about massive casualties to both sides and the entire city was ruined. The civilians were in great suffering.

In the end, Lu Renjia retreated first but he annexed three counties and was still in a state of war with the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. Nonetheless, the Secluded Mountain Prefecture was no longer the power it once was.

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 117: The Meet

"Who is it?"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle landed and its giant body frightened the people who were living in the mansion of the prefecture master.

Fang Yuan clearly knew that many arrows were now aimed at him. Such threat caused the eagle to fidget a little. It could feel that there was a very high chance of it being seriously injured or getting killed!

'Correct.....if the Secluded Mountain Prefecture didn't have any air defences, wouldn't the spiritual beasts which could fly be ruling the airspace?'

He rode on the eagle and intruded the Secluded Mountain Prefecture City, and even landed right in front of the mansion of the Prefecture Master. This had caused lots of attention.

As the alert was sounded, many Secluded Mountain Prefecture soldiers came and surrounded Fang Yuan. The leader who was leading the group of soldiers was an 8-feet tall strong man. He was wearing a bull's horn helmet and he charged straight through a crowd violently and shouted, "How dare you intrude the Secluded Mountain Prefecture. Who are you? What's your name?"

The man with the bull's horn helmet was bold but cautious. He knew that such person who could ride a spiritual beast was definitely not a simple one. Also, Fang Yuan didn't land directly inside the mansion of the Prefecture Master, which showed that he was not trying to harm anyone. The man with the bull's horn helmet then ordered his men to stay put and be alert.

"Hehe.....I'm Fang Yuan from the mountains. I wish to see the Prefecture Master!"

Fang Yuan stood with both of his hands behind his back after he had got down from the Iron-tailed Black Eagle. He seemed to be very calm and was able to smile even though there were many soldiers surrounding him.

"Wu Zong?!"

The leader focused on Fang Yuan.

This Wu Zong was young and a stranger to him. He was quite surprised and had to be cautious of Fang Yuan.

"You want to see the Prefecture Master?"

He stared at Fang Yuan and went through his mind quickly. He cannot recall anyone who was Wu Zong and was able to tame a spiritual beast. He then continued, "I will report your arrival to the city master, but it is up to the city master whether he wants to see you or not....."

"Yes, I know....."

Fang Yuan seemed to be quite confident that the city master would see him.

In fact, in times of war and when this place was heavily guarded, the Prefecture Master would be busy handling matters. However, with the power of Wu Zong, Liu Yan would definitely make time to see the Wu Zong even if there were no support forces backing the Wu Zong.

Indeed, not long after, a soldier came running towards Fang Yuan and said, "The city master would like to invite you to the guest hall!"

"Very good! But I will have to get my gift for him first!"

Fang Yuan went back to the eagle and carried Ling Yin down from the back of the eagle.

"What are you....."

The leader couldn't believe his eyes.

He wanted to comment on the gift as the city master was already old and was not into young girls anymore. Plus, Fang Yuan was a Wu Zong and even brought such a gift, which disgraced him as one.

When Fang Yuan tidied Ling Yin's long hair and revealed her face, the leader was even more shocked. "Ling Yin!!"

He knew her as the beloved disciple of Lu Renjia and had previously seen her at the birthday banquet. He also knew that Lu Renjia even sent two Wu Zongs to escort this lady.

However, she was now beaten till unconscious and given as a gift.

He couldn't comprehend this big change.

"What do you think of this gift?"

Fang Yuan threw Ling Yin to the leader.

"Uh....."

The leader was feeling awkward and immediately ordered his men to bring Ling Yin to elsewhere, where his men could watch over her. He then gave a thumbs up to Fang Yuan and said, "Well brother.....what a good way!"

At that point, he was not feeling suspicious of Fang Yuan already.

Even though he could see that Fang Yuan was trying to make use of Ling Yin to gain the trust of the city master, the city master was not a simple person. He was the most powerful spiritual knight in the whole of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture and such assassination was just a joke to him.

However, if Fang Yuan was planning something else, wasn't he treating the staffs living in the Secluded Mountain Prefecture as fools?

Hence, the leader could confirm that Fang Yuan was sincere about joining the alliance with the city master. He then welcomed him and said, "Come.....I shall bring you to the guest hall personally! And also your spiritual beast!"

The leader then ordered, "Men! Ask the chef to slaughter a few of the snow cows and bring the beef to the spiritual beast!"

"Thank you! However, my spiritual beast is a little different. It prefers to eat roasted meat!"

Fang Yuan smiled and continued, "And if there is hard liquor as well, it will be even better!"

"Haha.....you are indeed a special person. Even your spiritual beast is special. What a coincidence, the roaster meat here in this mansion is superb and I shall ask my men to bring a few bottles of wine!"

The leader's eyes glittered and were wide opened.

If Fang Yuan didn't have any matters on his hand to settle, the leader would probably be eating and drinking with Fang Yuan together to their hearts' content. Likely, they would swear to become brothers as well.

"Please lead the way!"

The Iron-tailed Black Eagle was having a feast outside while Fang Yuan followed the leader into the mansion of the Prefecture Master.

The mansion looked grand and many of the structures here were newly built. There were a few big pits which had not been covered up and they looked worse than the ones outside the city gate.

'Were these pits formed during the battle between the spiritual knight and Wu Zong?'

Fang Yuan thought.

From what he had seen from the outskirts of the city, the battle was so intense that half of the main hall was destroyed. One would not be surprised if the whole mansion here was destroyed totally.

The Prefecture Master was very capable as he was able to rebuild this place to such a state.

After they went past a small garden, they reached the guest hall.

"Please have some tea first. The city master will be here soon!"

After they entered the guest hall, the leader invited Fang Yuan to have a seat and two beautiful servants came in and served him tea. They then left right away, which clearly showed that they didn't want to stay in the hall for long.

"The tea made here in the Secluded Mountain Prefecture is the best in the whole of Xia Country. You have to taste it!"

The leader lifted the teacup and took a sip of the tea delicately. He was enjoying that cup of tea.

"Oh?"

Fang Yuan then laughed and said, "Well, I will have to taste it for myself then!"

He could smell the fragrance of the tea as he lifted his teacup. The fragrance brought him a sense of tranquillity and peace.

In the translucent tea, the tea leaves slowly unfolded. This particular tea leaf was like a piece of white jade, and the veins on the leaves were distinct and connected to the stem of the leaf. As the leaves spread out, it was akin to a flower blooming slowly.

"Good tea!"

Fang Yuan gave a surprised look and said, "From the colour of tea, I can see that this tea is of high quality!"

Of course, he knew that the leader had not much knowledge in tea and since he had enjoyed the tea so much, it was likely a spiritual tea.

'This tea is inferior to my Questioning Heart Tea.'

Fang Yuan's heart wavered and took another sip.

A bland taste filled the mouth, bring with it a mild stimulation to the taste buds. The stimulation slowly increased in intensity and was unlike a strong sensation that would slowly die down. This was an unforgettable taste and would leave a strong impression.

Of course, as the tea reached the stomach, Fang Yuan could feel the spiritual energy spreading inside his body and his Dantian was warmed by the tea. He felt that his elemental force had improved even though it was just a slight one.

"How is it?"

The leader stared at Fang Yuan and saw that he was also enjoying the tea as well. The leader then patted Fang Yuan's leg and said, "Good one, brother!"

"Hmm?"

Fang Yuan was confused by the leader's expression and actions.

"Brother Fang, this tea is actually a spiritual tea and is limited in stock. This tea is only served to important guests. Spiritual knights, Wu Zongs, or anyone else who have tasted this tea for their first time will have a very different expression on their faces, which show that they really enjoy the tea. This is the first time I have not seen an expression that has changed. Very good!"

"Hehe....."

Fang Yuan was speechless for a moment and felt that the leader seemed like a crazy person when he agreed with someone as his actions were overly expressed.

In fact, even though the tea served was good, it was not really the top-notch ones. The leader wanted Fang Yuan who was used to drinking Questioning Heart Tea to feel lost after drinking this tea? What a joke.

"Here comes the city master!"

Just when Fang Yuan thought that the leader had wanted to swear with him as brothers, the city master was finally here.

"I have seen you before, Prefecture Master!"

He exhaled a long breath and got up to greet the city master after he had managed to stop the conversation with the leader.

"Hehe....there is no need for such formality. Please rise!"

Liu Yan held Fang Yuan with both of his hands and was smiling widely.

As Fang Yuan got up, he was looking at the city master in detail.

From just a look, one would think that the city master was just a skinny old man with two thick eyebrows.

However, Fang Yuan was not only a Wu Zong, he was also a dream master and hence was able to detect much more.

There was always a fire-type energy surrounding Liu Yan at all times. By simply using one's magical energy to observe the area, one would realise that it was no longer a person sitting in the prefecture master's chair; it was a huge fireball!

This illusion meant that this person's spiritual knight cultivation had already reached the peak and was on the brink of a breakthrough, slowly approaching the next stage of cultivation.

"Your name is Fang Yuan?"

Seeing that Fang Yuan had joined the alliance out of his own will and even brought another powerful person as a gift, Liu Yan would definitely not put up his strong self in front of Fang Yuan. He was constantly giving a smile and was kind. He looked like one of the kind old neighbours in the city.

However, his eyes looked solemn. "If I'm not wrong, you are not only a Wu Zong but also somewhat a spiritual knight.....Also, you have already made a breakthrough to the heaven, haven't you?"

This was not much of a secret as Fang Yuan had already expected the city master to know this when he gave Ling Yin as a gift.

He had also reveal part of his magical energy on purpose and it was normal that he had been seen through.

"You're correct!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head conservatively. However, even if Liu Yan was 10 times more observant, he would still not be able to detect Fang Yuan's true identity as a dream master.

After all, there were many branches of spiritual techniques, and dream elemental force was the most illusionary one. How would Liu Yan be able to differentiate it from the others?

"You are a talented one indeed. I admire you!"

Liu Yan's expression had gotten a little more serious.

"What.....Brother Fang, you are a spiritual knight? Oh my..."

The leader, who was beside them, was so surprised. "You really have my full respect!"

"You can leave first, Leader Niu!"

Liu Yan frowned and waved his hands.

"I will take my leave!"

Leader Niu dared not to be arrogant in front of the city master. He immediately took a bow and left, leaving just Fang Yuan and Liu Yan in the guest hall.

Carefree Path of Dreams

Chapter 118: Advice

Only Liu Yan and Fang Yuan were left in the guest hall after Leader Niu left.

Liu Yan seized Fang Yuan up and sighed, "My friend, you have reached such a high level at such a young age. On the other hand, I have achieved nothing at my age..."

"Prefecture Master, you have overestimated me!"

Fang Yuan replied humbly.

While Fang Yuan had previously heard about Liu Yan's character, he still felt the need to be wary of Liu Yan.

"This is not overestimating you!"

Liu Yan stroked his sparse goatee and said, "From what I know, there are only a few people who are able to reach the level of Wuzong or spiritual knight in Xia Country. You are the first person to simultaneously reach the two levels in Xia Country! I think even amongst the neighbouring countries, you are considered a genius that appeared once every 300 years!"

While many old masters were able to alter their appearance to look young, the life energy that they exuded was different. Not even Fang Yuan's real age could be hidden from Liu Yan's spiritual eye.

Fang Yuan did not expect that Liu Yan would hold him in such high esteem.

After a moment of silence, Liu Yan asked, "Who is your teacher?"

"I am from Qinghe County, and my teacher is Master Wenxin!"

Fang Yuan used his master's alias which was the name that his master used to avoid trouble.

Upon hearing that Fang Yuan was from Qinghe County, Liu Yan laughed. "Good! Good! Good! A youth from my Secluded Mountain Prefecture!"

He pondered for a while before asking, "Where is your master?"

The master must be frightening if he was able to train his disciple to such a level.

"My master is long gone!"

This was no secret. Many in Qingye City knew and Fang Yuan did not make any attempt to hide the fact.

"I see! No wonder..."

Liu Yan nodded. He suddenly thought of something and after pondering it for a while, he made up his mind. "I want to talk to you about something but I wonder if you are willing to hear it out?"

"Please speak!"

Fang Yuan waved his hand.

"The cultivation of martial arts or the road to being a spiritual knight requires years of effort and hardship. There is a limit to the energy of a person no matter how talented he is. This is especially true where it becomes increasingly difficult to progress later on. My friend, it is advisable to only choose one path of cultivation if you do not want to end up like us. Only then will you be able to achieve success!"

Liu Yan advised.

"Thank you for your input sir!"

Fang Yuan felt like rolling his eyes as Liu Yan did not mention the conditions of joining the alliance and instead gave him a piece of advice regarding his cultivation.

Fang Yuan knew that Liu Yan meant well. However, Fang Yuan was very different from other geniuses and as such, the advice was not applicable to him.

"I would advise you to choose the path of the spiritual knight if you are to choose one path of cultivation!"

Liu Yan could see that Fang Yuan did not take his advice to heart and turned strict, "Furthermore, from my years of experience. I have a revelation that there is no path after Wuzong!"

"There is no path of cultivation after Wuzong?"

Fang Yuan quivered as he noticed this problem.

"That's correct!"

Liu Yan laughed bitterly, "Why did you think the 12 Golden Gates of Cultivation was set up?"

"It was to help those martial artists to develop a strong foundation, especially those who lacked the aptitude to reach a higher state of elemental force!"

Fang Yuan answered without a moment of hesitation.

He had the right to be confident for someone who had undergone the cultivation of martial arts.

Based on his predictions, the path of martial arts was conceived by a spiritual knight who wanted to benefit the masses. Therefore, the step by step process through the 12 Gates was created.

After all, the path of a spiritual knight started from a spiritual disciple followed by becoming a spiritual knight. This was a huge single step and was extremely difficult.

Martial arts divided this huge single step into 12 Gates. There was a process to be followed as a path to increase one's cultivation level. Finally, those cultivators with enough magical energy would successfully breakthrough if they have just enough potential to become a spiritual knight or alchemy master.

"That is correct!"

Liu Yan nodded his head, "However, martial arts' elemental force is primitive and low-levelled. How can it be compared to a spiritual knight's elemental force?"

Even the techniques of the Spirit Returning Sect and the Five Ghosts Sect could only reach the realm of Wuzong with no means to progress after..."

Liu Yan continued, "There are sayings that in the distant Da Qian Empire where martial arts is common and progression in martial arts is fast where the realm after Wuzong had been clearly divided, unlike here where people are still sentimental..."

"Therefore, comparatively, for us spiritual knights, as long as we cultivate naturally and slowly develop our elemental force, by accumulating our cultivation, we would be able to achieve a breakthrough. We have also inherited a few incomplete records of the way ahead, and are not completely clueless about the future for this path of cultivation!"

"This information should be given to you by your master. However, as he had passed away, I could only take matters into my own hands and tell you this."

Fang Yuan listened carefully and his expression grew grave.

"Loss of the path of martial arts, incomplete spiritual knight cultivation techniques...I did not expect the Secluded Mountain Prefecture and even Xia Country to be a barren wasteland for cultivators!"

"I wonder if the Da Qian Empire would be more interesting as compared to here."

He thanked Liu Yan as his mind revolved around the thought.

After all, even though Master Wenxin had given him the full inheritance describing the path to becoming a dream master, Fang Yuan was still clueless about the situation in Xia Country and the recent changes in the cultivators' world.

'I need no reminder to continue down my path as a dream master!'

Fang Yuan now realized the value of the inheritance in his hand.

Compared to the other spiritual knights who only had the badly damaged inheritance, Fang Yuan felt that he would be able to achieve much more than the other spiritual knights and would not walk into a dead-end.

Fang Yuan felt that given time and effort, he would be able to surpass Liu Yan's and Lu Renjia's level.

"So? What do you think?"

Liu Yan looked at Fang Yuan and grimaced.

"No...I was momentarily lost from too much information!"

Fang Yuan shook his head, "Furthermore, I do not know the situation of the cultivation world in the Da Qian Empire."

"There are rumours that path of martial arts is well developed in the faraway Da Qian Empire. They have already discovered the cultivation path after Wu Zong. This is unlike us here. Even if we have discovered the way ahead, we would selfishly keep it for ourselves..."

There are also many spiritual knights who possessed frightening inheritance. It is said that a single person could take on tens or even hundreds of our people..."

Liu Yan drifted off and sighed, "It's a shame that the Da Qian Empire is so far away with many dangers along the way. It is said that not even a Wu Zong or a spiritual knight would be able to reach there easily!"

'Da Qian? I would go there and have a look once I become a Dream Master!'

Fang Yuan silently made up his mind.

Fang Yuan had heard of Da Qian Empire before. Master Wenxin was from Da Qian who travelled to Xia Country to avoid trouble.

"I am really grateful for your advice!"

He asked, "I just wonder why you would tell me so much?"

"Haha...good question"

Liu Yan's eyes appeared bright, "I gave you so much information precisely because you are a part of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture! You are much better than that outsider, Lu Renjia!"

Fang Yuan did not know whether to laugh or cry. To think that the Prefecture Master was such a staunch supporter of this ideology.

"Since you are from Qinghe County, I believe that the Spirit Returning Sect Master Shi Yutong fell at your hands?"

Liu Yan closed his eyes and suddenly exclaimed, "That Lin Yin was cunning and recently appeared in Qinghe County. I did not expect you to act so quickly and capture them in one fell swoop!"

"They colluded and tried to kill me. I can only act first..."

Fang Yuan laughed bitterly, "That is the reason why I come to the Prefecture Master to seek protection!"

"Hmmm?"

Liu Yan laughed, "Haha...good, straight to the point! I like your frank and sincere character!"

Whether it was the first impression or the effect of the dream master, Liu Yan was starting to like Fang Yuan.

Elder Han and Elder Bian would not be able to die peacefully if they were to hear about Liu Yan's assessment of Fang Yuan.

"What do you want me to do? Send the army to Qinghe County to support you?"

Liu Yan looked at Fang Yuan jokingly.

"Of course not!"

Fang Yuan shook his head.

While Liu Yan appeared to like him, talk was cheap.

If Liu Yan would readily send in troops after hearing a few words from Fang Yuan, it would be because his brain was damaged.

No one so naïve would be able to hold the position of the Prefecture Master.

As such, Fang Yuan needed an object or say things that would sway Liu Yan.

Ling Yin was just a small gesture.

"Sending an army would waste too much time and effort. Furthermore, I was not hoping that the Prefecture Master would help me conquer the whole county..."

Fang Yuan blinked his eyes, "I was wondering if you are interested to quickly end the war?"

"Hmmm? Speak!"

Liu Yan straightened up when he heard this. It was obvious that he was interested.

"It was only recently that I took down Shi Yutong and Ling Yin. Lu Renjia would not be able to receive such news so quickly!"

Fang Yuan had already thought of what to say on his journey, "The Spirit Returning Sect is currently without a leader. In order to stabilise the alliance, he would send a powerful person, even himself, to keep the situation at hand. This makes him an easy target to ambush. Even if we are not able to kill him, we would be able to gravely injure him!"

"Using a spiritual beast? He would be caught unprepared?"

Liu Yan's eyes glinted.

"Wrong!"

Fang Yun shook his head. "I don't want to ambush Qinghe County's support, but rather, the Bone Melting Sect's Sect Master!"

The three sects, Spirit Returning, Bone Melting and Yellow Brothers Sect all had Wu Zongs at the helm controlling a cony each. Collectively, they gave strength to Lu Renjia's betrayal.

Furthermore, Lu Renjia was from the Bone Melting Sect!

“This way, we can remove the leader! If Prefecture Master would join us, we can cause great damage to the opposing alliance, disrupting their atmosphere!”

Fang Yuan said confidently.

Even though Liu Yan had three other counties under his name, these three counties were weak, especially Lieyang County. After the chaos, they could not recover and therefore could not give support.

Lu Renjia was an alchemy master and was therefore influential. Not only they were evenly matched, he still had the upper hand.

However, now that it was easy to take control over Qinghe County, the situation turned around.

“Mmm... Lu Renjia would surely send reinforcements to Qinghe County. This is a good opportunity for us to strike!”

Liu Yan nodded his head but did not say a word.

“Of course... If you feel that this plan is too dangerous, we can still head towards Qinghe County to deal with those who are assisting them. We can similarly gain control over the whole situation!”

Fang Yuan knew Liu Yan’s considerations and added a line.

“No need!”

Liu Yan’s red eyebrows twitched, and after a short while, he came to a decision. He stood up and walked forward. “If I don’t decide now, trouble will ensue! Right now, the enemy is weak while I am strong. If I don’t take this opportunity, wouldn’t I be letting them have the opportunity to regroup?”

He knew how impressive an alchemy master’s networking was. If he gave Lu Renjia any chance to regroup, he would be on the losing end.

“Pass down my orders. Get all the capital leaders and spiritual knights... To the main hall!”

Liu Yan exclaimed, as his voice travelled far.

“Let’s not delay, now is the best time to move!”

Fang Yuan immediately agreed.

After making a decision, this Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master was rather decisive and did not think twice.

“Prefecture Master, Niu Dingtian, Leng Ning and Xiang Zilong reporting!”

“Keke... Brother Liu, I wonder where did the spiritual bird outside come from? It is majestic!”

...

After a short while, a number of martial artists entered the hall; they all harnessed elemental force.

Three of them wore the Chilled Metal Armour and had a sinister look. Every movement of theirs resembled a killer. They were all the Wu Zong capital leaders of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture armed forces.

Another old man was clad in white robes. Although he seemed a little crazy, he had a big build, slightly larger than Niu Dingtian.

“Spiritual knight?”

Fang Yuan looked at the person with a serious look.

From this old man, he felt a totally different Wood-type inner breath. He had the feeling of spring and life.

“Brother Mu, don’t be rude!”

Liu Yan jokingly chided him and continued. “The spiritual bird outside belongs to Fang Yuan, Brother Fang. Don’t you dare have any ideas on it!”

He turned and faced Fang Yuan. “This is my good friend, Daoist Mu Li. He had lived in seclusion and only offered his help when I wrote him a letter... He loves spiritual birds, and once he caught a ‘Pure Yang Bird’, which once guarded the Heaven Facing Peak for one year and one month, but sadly, he did not get anything in return...”

“Liu Yan, stop exposing me!”

Daoist Mu Li blew at his moustache before looking in Fang Yuan’s direction. His expression changed to one of suspicion. “Wu Zong? Mmm? No, not right... Spiritual knight! Cultivating both martial arts and spiritual techniques at the same time, and still of such a young age! Monster!”

“Cough cough!”

Liu Yan almost choked on his saliva, and coughed repeatedly, afraid that there would be an internal conflict.

“Oh, it’s Sect Master Fang!”

As for the other two capital leaders who heard that this young man could cultivate martial arts and spiritual techniques at the same time, and furthermore having both aspects entering the realm of elemental force, both of them became polite and greeted him.

“You’re welcome!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand. “Daoist Mu Li is interested in my spiritual bird? Unfortunately, that black eagle of mine is rather proud and will not recognise any outsiders...”

“Ah... Then there’s no choice!”

Daoist Mu Li sighed. “I have tried to, with much effort, catch a spiritual eagle. As I tried to tame it, it starved itself to death and did not succumb to me..... Ah...”

At this point, he sounded as regretful as he could possibly be.

“Young man, did you use any secret technique to tame this black eagle? Teach it to me! I’ll teach you a wood-type spiritual spell in exchange for it, what do you think?!”

He looked at Fang Yuan in anticipation and almost went up to tug his sleeve to beg him.

“Mu Li...”

Liu Yan could not hold back. “Don’t you already have a Wind Chasing Falcon? Isn’t that enough?”

“Little Green is good, but the more the merrier... Brother Liu, you do not know what I am wishing for. I want to form an army of spiritual birds and change my Wood Elemental Temple to Five Birds Temple!”

Mu Li exclaimed with a straight face, which made Liu Yan almost burst into tears.

“Alright, I have gathered all of you to round up our strength and collectively attack the Bone Melting Sect’s Sect Master, clean up the place and destroy Lu Renjia!”

With the wave of his hand, a feeling of death spread throughout the hall.

Hearing this, the seemingly joking Daoist Mu Li became serious.

“... This is what happened. Based on what Brother Fang has told us, Lu Renjie must have just received news and have sent out reinforcements to assist Qinghe County. His own base is therefore weaker and is a good opportunity for us to strike. What do you guys think?”

Liu Yan explained the entire happening and looked at the capital leaders.

“We will follow your orders!”

Niu Dingtian, Xiang Zilong and Leng Ning were all his subordinates and therefore replied while kneeling down.

“Mmm... Although I want to attack the weaknesses of Lu Renjia, the earlier the war would end, the better it would be for the prefecture. I agree with what Master Fang had said, which is just to strike the Bone Melting Sect... Hehe, anyway we now have two spiritual birds at our disposal. If we use them properly, we can strike them by surprise!”

Daoist Mu Li shared his own view.

“I am for the same idea! Let’s not delay any further, and leave now! Mu Li, call for your Wind Chasing Falcon too!”

Liu Yan changed to a long robe which glittered with a spiritual glow and arrived at a school behind the hall.

“Hehe... Good!”

Daoist Mu Li smiled, took out a bamboo whistle and blew hard into it. A sharp whistle travelled far and wide.

“Chirp!”

A large green bird shot down from the clouds like an arrow.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

Seeing this, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle who was originally eating roasted meat could not hold back anymore. It flapped its wings and as the wind it created blew the Secluded Mountain Prefecture soldiers, it flew up and chased after the Wing Chasing Falcon.

“Hu Hu!”

On the school compound, sand and dust flew everywhere. Landed in the middle were two spiritual birds looking at each other, as though they were challenging each other.

“Good spiritual bird! Good spiritual bird!”

Daoist Mu Li enjoyed it very much, and he almost drooled.

Fang Yuan was examining the Wing Chasing Falcon.

It was aerodynamic and its feathers were a bright green. Its head was slightly smaller as compared to the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, and its breath seemed shorter too.

If the Iron-tailed Eagle was compared to a 4 Heavenly Gate martial artist, then the Wing Chasing Falcon should be an expert in inner force.

Even though it was as such, Fang Yuan could see a hint of unyieldingness in its eyes. It was not afraid of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

“I, Niu Dingtian and Master Fang will be together. Xiang Zilong, Leng Ning, you two shall ride the Chasing Wing Falcon and set off immediately!”

Fang Yuan leapt on to the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, comforted it before allowing Liu Yan to ride it as well. He felt a sense of pride as he waved his hands.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

“Chirp!”

Accompanying two chirps from the eagle, the Chasing Wing Falcon raced the Iron-tailed Black Eagle into the sky, and both of them disappeared into the horizon.

...

Cangyi County, White Bone Mountain.

This was where the Bone Melting Sect was. The first generation of the Bone Melting Sect’s Wu Zong stumbled upon this spiritual land and transformed it into their base. The opening of Bone Melting Sect had been around 500 years.

With such a foundation, there were many Wu Zongs from the Bone Melting Sect, which went on continuously for many years. The Sect Master of Bone Melting Sect shook the Secluded Mountain with the Bone Melting Palm Technique and was even more well known than Shi Yutong.

The Bone Melting Sect now was a mess.

At the foot of the mountain, there were many new soldier camps, and one could hear them shouting orders at the base camp.

Since Lu Renjia's rebellion, the Bone Melting Sect was his most loyal supporter. Therefore, Lu Renjia decided to place his rebellion alliance base camp here, as a challenge to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture.

However, there was peace and tranquillity in the Bone Melting Sect, as spiritual energy filled the entire compound.

Lu Renjia crossed his legs and sat on a futon, and in front of him stood a cauldron as tall as a human. Charcoal flames were burning brilliantly beneath the cauldron, continuously giving off green flames which licked the base of the cauldron.

While looking at the flames, Lu Renjia's expression was one of worry.

"Master Lu, you are worried about your disciple?"

A scribe in white entered the room. He was middle-aged and had white sideburns. He held a foldable fan in his hand and looked suave. Just by his appearance, no one would associate him with the cruel Bone Melting Sect Sect Master as heard in the legends.

"That is right..."

Lu Renjia did not get up. He casually pointed to a futon to welcome the Bone Melting Sect Sect Master to sit down, before sighing. "Who would have predicted for such a big thing to happen to such a protected disciple of mine? I am responsible for the disappearance of Ling Yin and the chaos in Spirit Returning Sect."

"Heh... Shi Yutong is a useless piece of junk. Other than having looks, her martial arts is sh*t, and can even be abducted by a junior Wu Zong. She has brought shame to all of us!"

Bone Melting Sect Sect Master still did not know that Fang Yuan cultivated martial arts and spiritual techniques at the same time, and was full of dissatisfaction with Shi Yutong. He comforted Lu Renjia and said, "Master Lu, you need not worry. Did you not already sent Tiancan and Dique, the two brothers, as well as the Blood Demon to aid them in Qinghe County? With the three of them, what can a Wu Zong do?"

Chapter 119: Bone Melting Sect

"Wrong!"

Fang Yun shook his head. "I don't want to ambush Qinghe County's support, but rather, the Bone Melting Sect's Sect Master!"

The three sects, Spirit Returning, Bone Melting and Yellow Brothers Sect all had Wu Zongs at the helm controlling a cony each. Collectively, they gave strength to Lu Renjia's betrayal.

Furthermore, Lu Renjia was from the Bone Melting Sect!

“This way, we can remove the leader! If Prefecture Master would join us, we can cause great damage to the opposing alliance, disrupting their atmosphere!”

Fang Yuan said confidently.

Even though Liu Yan had three other counties under his name, these three counties were weak, especially Lieyang County. After the chaos, they could not recover and therefore could not give support.

Lu Renjia was an alchemy master and was therefore influential. Not only they were evenly matched, he still had the upper hand.

However, now that it was easy to take control over Qinghe County, the situation turned around.

“Mmm... Lu Renjia would surely send reinforcements to Qinghe County. This is a good opportunity for us to strike!”

Liu Yan nodded his head but did not say a word.

“Of course... If you feel that this plan is too dangerous, we can still head towards Qinghe County to deal with those who are assisting them. We can similarly gain control over the whole situation!”

Fang Yuan knew Liu Yan’s considerations and added a line.

“No need!”

Liu Yan’s red eyebrows twitched, and after a short while, he came to a decision. He stood up and walked forward. “If I don’t decide now, trouble will ensue! Right now, the enemy is weak while I am strong. If I don’t take this opportunity, wouldn’t I be letting them have the opportunity to regroup?”

He knew how impressive an alchemy master’s networking was. If he gave Lu Renjia any chance to regroup, he would be on the losing end.

“Pass down my orders. Get all the capital leaders and spiritual knights... To the main hall!”

Liu Yan exclaimed, as his voice travelled far.

“Let’s not delay, now is the best time to move!”

Fang Yuan immediately agreed.

After making a decision, this Secluded Mountain Prefecture Master was rather decisive and did not think twice.

“Prefecture Master, Niu Dingtian, Leng Ning and Xiang Zilong reporting!”

“Keke... Brother Liu, I wonder where did the spiritual bird outside come from? It is majestic!”

...

After a short while, a number of martial artists entered the hall; they all harnessed elemental force.

Three of them wore the Chilled Metal Armour and had a sinister look. Every movement of theirs resembled a killer. They were all the Wu Zong capital leaders of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture armed forces.

Another old man was clad in white robes. Although he seemed a little crazy, he had a big build, slightly larger than Niu Dingtian.

“Spiritual knight?”

Fang Yuan looked at the person with a serious look.

From this old man, he felt a totally different Wood-type inner breath. He had the feeling of spring and life.

“Brother Mu, don’t be rude!”

Liu Yan jokingly chided him and continued. “The spiritual bird outside belongs to Fang Yuan, Brother Fang. Don’t you dare have any ideas on it!”

He turned and faced Fang Yuan. “This is my good friend, Daoist Mu Li. He had lived in seclusion and only offered his help when I wrote him a letter... He loves spiritual birds, and once he caught a ‘Pure Yang Bird’, which once guarded the Heaven Facing Peak for one year and one month, but sadly, he did not get anything in return...”

“Liu Yan, stop exposing me!”

Daoist Mu Li blew at his moustache before looking in Fang Yuan’s direction. His expression changed to one of suspicion. “Wu Zong? Mmm? No, not right... Spiritual knight! Cultivating both martial arts and spiritual techniques at the same time, and still of such a young age! Monster!”

“Cough cough!”

Liu Yan almost choked on his saliva, and coughed repeatedly, afraid that there would be an internal conflict.

“Oh, it’s Sect Master Fang!”

As for the other two capital leaders who heard that this young man could cultivate martial arts and spiritual techniques at the same time, and furthermore having both aspects entering the realm of elemental force, both of them became polite and greeted him.

“You’re welcome!”

Fang Yuan waved his hand. “Daoist Mu Li is interested in my spiritual bird? Unfortunately, that black eagle of mine is rather proud and will not recognise any outsiders...”

“Ah... Then there’s no choice!”

Daoist Mu Li sighed. “I have tried to, with much effort, catch a spiritual eagle. As I tried to tame it, it starved itself to death and did not succumb to me..... Ah...”

At this point, he sounded as regretful as he could possibly be.

“Young man, did you use any secret technique to tame this black eagle? Teach it to me! I’ll teach you a wood-type spiritual spell in exchange for it, what do you think?!”

He looked at Fang Yuan in anticipation and almost went up to tug his sleeve to beg him.

“Mu Li...”

Liu Yan could not hold back. “Don’t you already have a Wind Chasing Falcon? Isn’t that enough?”

“Little Green is good, but the more the merrier... Brother Liu, you do not know what I am wishing for. I want to form an army of spiritual birds and change my Wood Elemental Temple to Five Birds Temple!”

Mu Li exclaimed with a straight face, which made Liu Yan almost burst into tears.

“Alright, I have gathered all of you to round up our strength and collectively attack the Bone Melting Sect’s Sect Master, clean up the place and destroy Lu Renjia!”

With the wave of his hand, a feeling of death spread throughout the hall.

Hearing this, the seemingly joking Daoist Mu Li became serious.

“... This is what happened. Based on what Brother Fang has told us, Lu Renjie must have just received news and have sent out reinforcements to assist Qinghe County. His own base is therefore weaker and is a good opportunity for us to strike. What do you guys think?”

Liu Yan explained the entire happening and looked at the capital leaders.

“We will follow your orders!”

Niu Dingtian, Xiang Zilong and Leng Ning were all his subordinates and therefore replied while kneeling down.

“Mmm... Although I want to attack the weaknesses of Lu Renjia, the earlier the war would end, the better it would be for the prefecture. I agree with what Master Fang had said, which is just to strike the Bone Melting Sect... Hehe, anyway we now have two spiritual birds at our disposal. If we use them properly, we can strike them by surprise!”

Daoist Mu Li shared his own view.

“I am for the same idea! Let’s not delay any further, and leave now! Mu Li, call for your Wind Chasing Falcon too!”

Liu Yan changed to a long robe which glittered with a spiritual glow and arrived at a school behind the hall.

“Hehe... Good!”

Daoist Mu Li smiled, took out a bamboo whistle and blew hard into it. A sharp whistle travelled far and wide.

“Chirp!”

A large green bird shot down from the clouds like an arrow.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

Seeing this, the Iron-tailed Black Eagle who was originally eating roasted meat could not hold back anymore. It flapped its wings and as the wind it created blew the Secluded Mountain Prefecture soldiers, it flew up and chased after the Wing Chasing Falcon.

“Hu Hu!”

On the school compound, sand and dust flew everywhere. Landed in the middle were two spiritual birds looking at each other, as though they were challenging each other.

“Good spiritual bird! Good spiritual bird!”

Daoist Mu Li enjoyed it very much, and he almost drooled.

Fang Yuan was examining the Wing Chasing Falcon.

It was aerodynamic and its feathers were a bright green. Its head was slightly smaller as compared to the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, and its breath seemed shorter too.

If the Iron-tailed Eagle was compared to a 4 Heavenly Gate martial artist, then the Wing Chasing Falcon should be an expert in inner force.

Even though it was as such, Fang Yuan could see a hint of unyieldingness in its eyes. It was not afraid of the Iron-tailed Black Eagle.

“I, Niu Dingtian and Master Fang will be together. Xiang Zilong, Leng Ning, you two shall ride the Chasing Wing Falcon and set off immediately!”

Fang Yuan leapt on to the Iron-tailed Black Eagle, comforted it before allowing Liu Yan to ride it as well. He felt a sense of pride as he waved his hands.

“Chirp! Chirp!”

“Chirp!”

Accompanying two chirps from the eagle, the Chasing Wing Falcon raced the Iron-tailed Black Eagle into the sky, and both of them disappeared into the horizon.

...

Cangyi County, White Bone Mountain.

This was where the Bone Melting Sect was. The first generation of the Bone Melting Sect’s Wu Zong stumbled upon this spiritual land and transformed it into their base. The opening of Bone Melting Sect had been around 500 years.

With such a foundation, there were many Wu Zongs from the Bone Melting Sect, which went on continuously for many years. The Sect Master of Bone Melting Sect shook the Secluded Mountain with the Bone Melting Palm Technique and was even more well known than Shi Yutong.

The Bone Melting Sect now was a mess.

At the foot of the mountain, there were many new soldier camps, and one could hear them shouting orders at the base camp.

Since Lu Renjia's rebellion, the Bone Melting Sect was his most loyal supporter. Therefore, Lu Renjia decided to place his rebellion alliance base camp here, as a challenge to the Secluded Mountain Prefecture.

However, there was peace and tranquillity in the Bone Melting Sect, as spiritual energy filled the entire compound.

Lu Renjia crossed his legs and sat on a futon, and in front of him stood a cauldron as tall as a human. Charcoal flames were burning brilliantly beneath the cauldron, continuously giving off green flames which licked the base of the cauldron.

While looking at the flames, Lu Renjia's expression was one of worry.

"Master Lu, you are worried about your disciple?"

A scribe in white entered the room. He was middle-aged and had white sideburns. He held a foldable fan in his hand and looked suave. Just by his appearance, no one would associate him with the cruel Bone Melting Sect Master as heard in the legends.

"That is right..."

Lu Renjia did not get up. He casually pointed to a futon to welcome the Bone Melting Sect Master to sit down, before sighing. "Who would have predicted for such a big thing to happen to such a protected disciple of mine? I am responsible for the disappearance of Ling Yin and the chaos in Spirit Returning Sect."

"Heh... Shi Yutong is a useless piece of junk. Other than having looks, her martial arts is sh*t, and can even be abducted by a junior Wu Zong. She has brought shame to all of us!"

Bone Melting Sect Master still did not know that Fang Yuan cultivated martial arts and spiritual techniques at the same time, and was full of dissatisfaction with Shi Yutong. He comforted Lu Renjia and said, "Master Lu, you need not worry. Did you not already sent Tiancan and Dique, the two brothers, as well as the Blood Demon to aid them in Qinghe County? With the three of them, what can a Wu Zong do?"

[Carefree Path of Dreams](#)

Chapter 120: Ambush

"Even if it is so, I still do not think it is safe!"

Lu Renjia frowned further. He got up and paced up and down before making up his mind, ordering, "Send down my order immediately, use the spiritual messenger! Order Blood Demon and the Crippled Brothers to abandon the mission and return immediately!"

"This..."

The blood drained from the face of the head of the Bone Melting Sect as he stuttered, "Sir are you afraid it might be...a trap?"

"Correct! If the Wu Zong who captured Shi Yutong was in cahoots with Old Liu, then they are trying to create a diversion!"

Lu Renjia paced around the room in a circle a few times. His thoughts were clearer, and he said, "Since we have to go, we must rally all the veteran martial artists together on this trip! I am not only going to foil Old Liu's sneaky plan, I am going to make him pay too!"

"Good!"

Just as the head of the Bone Melting Sect stood up, two loud shrill calls of an eagle pierced the air from the sky above.

"We're under attack!!!"

The deafening noise of the bell and drum reverberated through the air above the Bone Melting Sect. The junior disciples were completely out of control and were in utter chaos. However, the guards closer to the core group stood at high points and aimed their arrows towards the sky.

"Haha... I have been tolerating their nonsense for too long, it's payback time! Charge straight down, do not be frightened of the arrows!"

Liu Yan laughed heartily. With a stretch of his hand, six green fire dragons appeared in front of him, baring their teeth and claws as they roared threateningly. The dragons emitted blistering heat waves into their surroundings as they charged downwards at incredible speed.

"Voom voom!"

An archer's tower got struck by a flame of green fire and burst into flames immediately. The locked and loaded 8 Oxen Bowls caught fire in no time and the archers by the side were not spared the painful death, screaming in agony as they fell from the tower.

"Shoot! Shoot!"

The head of the Bone Melting Sect exploded with rage and flew onto a roof. He snatched away a huge bow and pulled the string to its maximum tension. The arrow shot out with amazing force towards the two spiritual birds.

Behind the head of the Bone Melting Sect, the disciples and elders of the sect who were originally in utter chaos eventually found their composure and got a hold of the situation. At the same time, several long-range weapons shot into the sky to meet the great enemy.

"Elemental force of heaven and earth, do my bidding!"

Liu Yan did a finger gesture as he shouted out the incantation. Immediately, two green and red fires burst out in front of Iron-tailed Black Eagle and Wind Chasing Falcon, as though forming a shield.

At the same time, a huge flame exploded in mid air and rained down like a meteor shower.

This was the spiritual fire. Even though it was in a small quantity, it was terrifying enough for most of the lower ranking disciples. To use it in such a big environment, it became a fire disaster in no time, lighting up all the beautifully constructed buildings.

"Liu Yan! You old thief!"

Seeing this, the head of the Bone Melting Sect seethed with anger as he shouted, "One of us must die today!"

"Snap!"

He drew back the string on the bow as he prepared his next shot, but as he exerted too much force, the bow snapped into two.

"Lu Renjia...you old thief, show yourself!"

As Liu Yan's passions got intensified in the fight, he shouted out for his enemy.

Fang Yuan assessed the situation closely and was on his toes. With the dispersal of the powerful magical elemental force, Fang Yuan communicated with Iron-tailed Black Eagle as they dodged the lethal arrows shooting up from below. With the shield of fire, they could move about freely in the barrage of arrows.

'According to what Liu Yan said on the way here, Lu Renjia is an alchemy master. He hired a spiritual knight who goes by the name of Blood Demon and also has two servants who are Wu Zong martial artists going by the name of the Crippled Brothers! With the combined might of these people and the heads of three sects, this was almost enough to overpower the Secluded Mountain Prefecture!'

With the combination of powers of seven martial artists who had elemental force, it was more than enough to overpower the existing head of the Secluded Mountain Prefecture.

Before, this Liu Yan definitely had more than three generals in the secluded mountain. But after one of them rebelled, he fought another general to their deaths in the war earlier. This pattern continued which severely weakened the power of Liu Yan's forces.

'If I did not arrive, the Secluded Mountain Prefecture would be wiped out even though they have two spiritual knights, three Wu Zongs and the scarily impressive power of Liu Yan! As for just now, if Liu Yan had dared to even use such that technique without Iron-tailed Black Eagle covering for him, he would definitely be encircled and trapped without a chance of survival!'

"Chief Bai!"

Looking at the disaster unfold in front of him, Lu Renjia shook his head and said, "We are overpowered now, we must avoid the tip of the enemy's spear and head for open ground where the spiritual fire cannot work its magic to cut our losses!"

"As of now the enemy is pressing its advantage. Now that the Spirit Returning Sect is in trouble and the head of the Huang Kun Sect has rushed here, we should still not take the enemy on. All we can do now is to wait for Blood Demon and the rest to hurry back quickly!"

Combining all of their powers, it would be more than sufficient to deal with Fang Yuan, Liu Yuan and their spiritual beasts.

"Do not care about this sect now, head straight for the camps at the foot of the mountain to break out!"

"Woo woo!"

Earlier when the Bone Melting Sect was enveloped in flames, the army camps at the bottom of the mountain sprang into full alertness. Horns blared anxiously, and arrows were loaded into their bows. They were definitely more disciplined and ready than the Bone Melting Sect.

After all, it was the elite soldiers of the three counties who resided within the camps. They were a uniformed and legitimate force, not a bunch of rowdy disciples.

"Move!"

The head of the Bone Melting Sect winced and ignoring the pain in his heart, commanded loudly, "Disciples of Bone Melting Sect, disperse and break out!"

This was a painful decision, but it was very effective.

After all, Liu Yan was just one person, even if he was more powerful, how many could he possibly kill?

Anyway, if the sect got burned down, it was just a matter of losing face. He could always rebuild it later. Even Liu Yan's own city got destroyed.

"Chase them!"

Upon seeing each other, the enemies raged further.

Without much effort, Liu Yan spotted Lu Renjia behind the head of the Bone Melting Sect and shouted angrily, "Prepare to die!"

"Bang! Bang!"

Several huge balls of fire formed on his arms and they crashed downwards from above, like from a flamethrower.

"Haha...you old devil you expanded everything you had, aren't you afraid that you might have went a bit too hard?"

Lu Renjia laughed and as he waved his hand three alchemy balls flew out.

"Voom!"

The white ball exploded in mid air and the temperature fell drastically immediately. The whole place became freezing cold and neutralised the raging fire.

'Even though this person is an alchemy master, it seems that he isn't that inflexible!"

Seeing this, Fang Yuan thought of an idea and silently ordered Iron-tailed Black Eagle to soar up higher.

How could spiritual knights and the Wu Zong act so speedily?

In no time, Lu Renjia and the head of the White Bone Sect cross the mountain and arrived at the foot of it.

Within the camp, a gust of dust sped towards Lu Renjia. The leader wore a yellow robe and had a thunderous voice as he shouted, "Master Lu, I will help you!"

"Be careful Chief Huang, this old devil got himself a spiritual eagle from somewhere which is even more powerful than the Wind Chasing Falcon!"

Seeing the head of the Yellow Brothers sect arrive personally to help him, Lu Renjia heaved a sigh of relief and cautioned him.

"Haha, do not worry Master Lu. This Liu Yan could not have possibly expected me to be defenceless against his spiritual bird right?"

With a wave of his hand, the cover sheets on a few carriages were removed to reveal 5 unique looking crossbows. The arrows had several unknown prints on it and the arrow head looked slightly illuminated by a dull green light.

"Aim!"

"Fire!"

With a few shouts from the troops, the five cross bows let out a deafening roar.

"Bang!"

The tremendous recoil caused several carriages carrying the weapons to explode instantly.

The power of such a gigantic crossbow was naturally tremendous.

"This..."

High in the air, Fang Yuan immediately felt anxious and realised danger was coming his way and commanded, "Iron-tailed Black Eagle, dodge to your right!"

"Shoo!"

Almost instantaneously after spiritual will was activated, a ray of green light passed through the shield of fire and brushed past the wings of Iron-tailed Black Eagle, shooting down some of its iron feathers.

"Bastards!"

By the side, Liu Yan thrust his five fingers outwards and flaming claw appeared, causing the other crossbow to combust into ash.

Iron-tailed Black Eagle was lucky that Fang Yuan pre-empted it and saved its life. However, the Wind Chasing Falcon next to it was not so lucky.

Along with the gasps of awe from the people, Wind Chasing Falcon increased its speed and dodged two of the arrows, but got hit by the last one in its wing. The arrow pierced into it and blood flowed out as it let out a painful shriek.

"Fantastic!"

Looking at the unsteady Wind Chasing Falcon fall towards the ground, Lu Renjia heaved a sigh of relief and said, "Your skills are incredible Chief Huang, you have helped us a lot!"

"Our sect started off constructing equipment and mechanisms and I made this crossbow myself. The most crucial parts of the crossbow are made from iron of top quality. The arrows were also further enhanced with the inscription of spiritual prints. Even if they had the protection of feathers of 4 Heavenly Gates level, the arrow could still penetrate through!"

The head of the Huang Kun sect boasted with satisfaction.

"Surround them and kill them off!"

Seeing Wind Chasing Falcon fly closer to the ground, rays of frosty light shot out of Lu Renjia's eyes.

"Just us? Unless the entire army surrounds them, if not..."

Upon seeing the people on top of the spiritual birds, the head of the White Bone Sect lost a bit of confidence.

Would the two highly skilled Wu Zong and spiritual knight even stupidly fall for the trap and allow the army to surround them?

"Do not worry, even without the help of the main force, we can take them on ourselves!"

Lu Renjia winced a little and then painfully drew out an item and said, "With this, it doesn't matter if our opponents double in force, we can delay them here until Blood Demon and the Crippled Brothers return! When they do, it will be time for Liu Yan to die!"

"This is...the Spiritual Array Map?"

The eyes of the head of Huang Kun sect lit up as he licked his lips and said, "This is such a rare and precious item you have!"

"Brother Huang, you flatter me!"

Lu Renjia smiled grimly and said, "Spiritual Array masters are no longer in existence in this area. This Spiritual Array Map is the last of its kind and it can only be used once. To do so will be to spend half of my life's possessions..."

"Sssss.... I've long heard that it was difficult to become a Spiritual Array master. But if one were to succeed, it would be extremely powerful and difficult to defeat."

How much possessions did an alchemy master have? Even if it was just a fraction, it was still enough to make any sect desirous.

To achieve the Spiritual Array Map at such a huge cost, its powers and effects must be devastating.

To be able to see Lu Renjia be so confident of delaying and holding up such formidable martial artists, it was a sight only a privileged few could enjoy!

"Chase!"

The heads of the Huang Kun Sect and the Bone Melting Sect made eye contact and hurriedly followed behind Lu Renjia as they moved towards the area where Wind Chasing Falcon fell.

"Erm!"

Fang Yuan who was still in the air caught sight of this immediately and grew suspicious, "They are extremely daring to leave the protection of the army and come out on their own!"

Based on their flexibility, in order to chase up to people like themselves, the only way to do so was to leave behind the main army.

But to so courageously do so when they were clearly at a disadvantage, they must have something they were relying on for support!

"Hehe...Could it be that Lu Renjia thinks that just because he behaves so daringly I wouldn't dare to fight him?"

Liu Yan pointed somewhere deep into the mountains and said, "Let's go there!"

Deep in the mountains and the jungle was where the main army could not enter easily, which was also where they could effectively execute their techniques to the maximum extent.